FBIS DAILY REPORT

Soviet Union

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REACTION TO U.S. RADAR IN GREENLAND REPORTED

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD241900 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1818 GMT 24 Jul 87

["Statement of the USSR Foreign Ministry" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, July 24 (TASS) -- Follows the full text of a statement of the USSR Foreign Ministry:

The Soviet Union's national monitoring [kontrol] means have registered the placing on operational readiness of a new large U.S. "Pave Paws" phased-array radar station near Thule, Greenland, which, as the U.S. side, too, admits, is a missile-attack warning radar station.

The Soviet Union views these U.S. Administration actions as a direct violation of the timeless Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Limitation of Antiballistic Missile Systems (ABM) of 1972 which is the basis for maintaining strategic balance and the foundation for strategic offensive arms limitation and reduction. The ABM Treaty strictly limits the deployment of new missile attack warning radar stations to the periphery of national territory of either side. The "argument" put forward by Washington that it is allegedly only modernization of the station that already existed there is groundless.

The radar station in Thule is a new phased-array radar station of the type which did not exist when the treaty was signed, built a new instead of the old radar station that did not have such an array.

Article Six of the ABM Treaty was formulated to ban this new construction. So, by deploying the aforementioned radar station outside its national territory, the United States has clearly violated the ABM Treaty.

Starting from 1985, when the national technical verification means of the USSR established the fact of U.S. activity leading to a violation of the provisions of the ABM Treaty -- the construction of a radar at Thule -- the Soviet side warned on more than one occasion about the incompatibility of the work underway with that treaty and demanded that measures be taken to remedy the situation. However, the United States continued building the radar near Thule and has completed its setup by now. Moreover, it started building another similar radar, which violates the treaty, at Fylingdales Moor, Britain. The Soviet side is seriously concerned over the fact that the radar set up in Greenland and the one planned to be set up in Britain are stations of "Pave Paws" type, which have characteristics allowing them to cope both with the tasks of warning against a missile attack and potentially with the tasks of antiballistic missile defense.

To cover up its illegal actions in the ABM sphere, the United States is referring to the radar under construction in the Krasnoyarsk area in the USSR, ascribing to it functions it will not have. The Soviet side has thoroughly explained that that radar will be a station for tracking space vehicles and that the limitation under the ABM Treaty thus does not apply to it. The United States will be able to get convinced of it through the use of its national technical means when the radar in the Kransnoyarsk area starts operating in the emission mode.

Despite all this, the United States is striving at any cost to preserve the question about the Soviet radar clearly to distract the attention from its violation of the ABM Treaty.

Guided by the interests of consolidating the ABM Treaty, the Soviet Union has been doing everything to find the mutually acceptable solution to radar stations' problem.

We expressed readiness to agree even to mothballing our radar station near Krasnoyarsk as it is used as a pretext for expressing doubt in observance by the Soviet Union of the ABM Treaty. But this calls for the United States to do the same as regards the mentioned U.S. radar stations. However, all our proposals were rejected by the U.S. side. This shows that the United States deliberately violated its commitments under the ABM Treaty.

Noteworthy is the fact that the "problem" of the radar station under construction near Krasnoyarsk was raised by the U.S. Administration right after announcing the "Strategic Defense Initiative" whose goal is to create a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements, which is fundamentally at odds with the letter and spirit, the very essence of the ABM Treaty.

A single line aimed at undermining the ABM Treaty and destroying strict limitations imposed by it is traced in U.S. actions to implement SDI and in other activity in the ABM field. The same line is clearly present in the U.S. stand at the talks in Geneva, which instead of strengthening the ABM Treaty is aimed at legalizing already now actually any work, including in space, in the ABM field (behind the screen of the specially conceived "broader" interpretation of the treaty's provisions) and after 1994 at abrogating this timeless treaty altogether thus opening a new space channel of the strategic arms race.

This course of the United States clearly conflicts with the task of preventing the arms race in space and arresting it on earth, which was agreed upon at top level.

The Soviet Union insists that the United States take without delay measures to rectify the violation of the ABM Treaty, the key agreement in the strategic arms limitation field, made by it as a result of the unlawful deployment of the radar station in Greenland. The responsibility for the negative consequences of the violation committed rests squarely with the United States.

U.S. Response 'Meaningless'

LD261102 Moscow TASS in English 1046 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 26 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko:

A spokesman for the U.S. State Department got off with meaningless phrases in answer to the question of the TASS correspondent about the going into service of the new U.S. big phased array radar Pave Paws in the area of Thule (Greenland). The fact that these actions by the U.S. Administration are a direct violation of the Soviet-American Treaty of the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile Defence Systems (ABM) of 1972, which is without time-limit, was pointed out in a statement issued last Friday by the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman for the U.S. State Department claimed that the U.S. radar station in the area of Thule is a modernisation of the radar, which existed at the time when the treaty was signed. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger noted in the annual report of the Defence Department to the Congress for the 1986 fiscal year that the USA was replacing outdated radars in Thule and Fylingdales Moor. Yet the Pentagon experts felt that they made a blunder in their annual report for the 1987 fiscal year and instead of the word "replacement" used the term "modification". [sentence as received]

This and other similar facts are pointed out in the report on compliance and the future of arms control, which was prepared by the working group on problems of international security and control of Stanford University. Thus, for example, the similar radar station under construction in Fylingdales Moor (Britain) as is pointed out in the report, will be at a distance of several miles from the old radar station. Then what sort of modernisation is it?

As regards the characteristics of radiation, says the Stanford University research paper, the new radar stations in Thule and Fylingdales Moor can be potentially used with the aims of anti-missile defence. Thus, the authors of the report say, they not only fall under the category of the radar stations, which must be placed along the national territories perephery with outside orientation, and could be potentially be seen as ABM components covered by the restriction of Article IX..."of the AMB Treaty." [sentence as received]

GORBACHEV PROPOSAL PROMPTS CONFERENCE, COMMENTARY

Obukhov Details Stand

LD251052 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] A news conference at the permanent mission of the USSR in Geneva was devoted to explaining the main stands taken when Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was interviewed by the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA. Obukhov, the deputy head of the delegation of the USSR at the talks with the United States on nuclear and space arms, stressed: We are reckoning on the USSR's major new initiatives decisively furthering the talks on the complex of questions concerning medium-range and operational and tactical missiles. Now all the far-fetched impediments invented by the U.S. side at the talks should disappear. The Soviet decision, Obukhov noted, envisages the complete elimination of warheads, including the U.S. warheads for the operational and tactical Pershing-1A missiles belonging to the FRG.

World Shows 'Enormous Interest'

OW231321 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1105 GMT 23 Jul 87

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Hello, comrades. You probably know that the main international event today is the interview with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev by the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA, which was published yesterday. Throughout the world, and particularly in countries of the Asian-Pacific region, the interview is presently being reprinted, analyzed in the most scrupulous way, and commented upon.

It is being noted that these materials express the Soviet leadership's desire to achieve the main strategic aim of Soviet foreign policy -- the stage-by-stage, complete, and universal elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Enormous interest and the liveliest response was evoked from the world public by our country's latest step in this direction -- the readiness expressed by Comrade Gorbachev to proceed with eliminating all our medium-range missiles, including those in the country's Asian region. We are thereby prepared to remove the question of preserving the 100 warheads on medium-range missiles, which is now being discussed at the Geneva talks with the Americans, on the condition of course that the United States will follow our example and that operational and tactical missiles will also be eliminated.

This proposal, this new and important peace initiative of the Soviet Union, was made in response to the wishes of Asian countries and with regard for their concerns. Naturally this act of goodwill -- judging by the first reports coming in today -- has received the most positive response from the region's countries. For example, it was welcomed by the Japanese head of government Nakasone. KYODO expressed its conviction that the Soviet leaders' replies to MERDEKA attest to the Soviet Union's desire to relax tensions in this region.

Of course, you and I are interested in Washington's reaction. This time -- to be quite fair -- it was extremely operative [vesma operativ naya]. Last night an unscheduled news conference was held in the White House devoted to the new Soviet proposals on eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles, not only in Europe but on a global scale as well, as Comrade Gorbachev proposed. An official representative of the White House read a prepared statement that said the administration welcomed the report on the proposals contained in the interview and that the U.S. delegation in Geneva is ready for constructive work.

However -- and we often have to resort to the word however when we deal with the present administration -- right after this promising statement at yesterday's White House news conference certain reservations followed to the effect that the text of the interview has to be studied in detail to see whether or not it contains any unacceptable conditions and to wait and see what specific proposals on this issue will be tabled at the Geneva talks by the Soviet delegation.

U.S. Replies Denote 'Own Logic'

LD261725 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Jul 87

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Tomas Kolesnichenko]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the interview by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the Indonesian paper MERDEKA the foreign policy idea of the Soviet Union is in fact laid out, based on the new thinking showing the whole heterogenous world in its dialectical interdependence.

For example, our new denouement in Geneva, our readiness for the global double-zero, the complete elimination of medium range missiles and operative and strategic missiles. It will bring the Geneva talks to a direct finish, and open up a real prospect for a Soviet-American summit.

But this by no means exhausts the significance of the new Soviet initiative. Having also expressed readiness to embark on eliminating all our medium-range missiles in the Asian part of the country -- that is, to remove the question of keeping the 100 warheads the Geneva talks are discussing -- the Soviet Union is thereby opening up completely new prospects in the Asian-Pacific region. They have been set out in detail in four points in the interview with MERDEKA. Other measures are also possible, and we are ready to look at unconventional [neordinarnyy] ideas so long as they are acceptable to all. It is typical that our new proposals should have been put forward now at the anniversary of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech, in which the problems of security in Asia were laid out.

So, we have new proposals. What about the United States? This question is also being quite widely discussed and it is understandable why. The Soviet initiatives are addressed first and foremost to the United States. It is as if we are going to meet Washington not only along our part of the road, but are going further. But will Washington move from its position? For example, we are removing all medium-range missiles in Asia without linking this with the U.S. nuclear presence in South Korea, the Philippines, and on Diego Garcia. But at least surely the United States should not then modernize its forces and not increase its nuclear arms in the Asian countries. That's logical, isn't it? But the first responses of the United States show that they have their own logic, so to say, and it is expressed in such ambiguous words, as: Moscow's step is encouraging and heartening; but at the same time that same Fitzwater, press secretary to the White House, again repeated the fable of some kind of Soviet threat to the Pacific. And that was after our proposals.

Kampelman, the head of the U.S. delegation in Geneva, also praised the Soviet initiative, but here he too declared that the United States would refuse to examine the question of West German Pershing-1A missiles -- that is, the 72 U.S. warheads on them. That is one of the dead ends of the Geneva talks, and here you have the U.S. reaction: No, we won't come out of the dead end. Is that really the way to conduct talks? It must be admitted that even the commentaries of Western observers are expressing the idea that the Soviet Union is clearing away the obstructions on the path to most important decisions, and the United States is retreating unwillingly, fighting a rearguard diplomatic battle.

Well, we are waiting for a responsible approach from Washington, for the ball -- as the Americans themselves say -- is in their court.

Levin Sees U.S. 'Reservations'

LD241809 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] The world welcomes the Soviet proposal on the global double-zero option. Here is a commentary by Viktor Levin who is at the microphone:

[Levin] The replies of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the questions of the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA touch upon many international problems, and the Soviet evaluation of each of them evokes great interest.

I think that our country's approaches to the solution of Asian problems and to the securing of peace in this region have not yet been fully understood because a bold and innovative approach undoubtedly presupposes renunciation of fixed stereotypes, and this, naturally takes time. This does not mean that Asian and Pacific countries have not yet started studying Comrade Gorbachev's replies.

The first reactions show deep interest but, I repeat, this matter requires time. But the problem of the global double-zero option, that is the liquidation of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles not only in Europe but in the territory of the USSR and the United States -- for everybody is following closely the course of the talks in Geneva -- has evoked an immediate and, on the whole, unambiguous reaction. The Soviet initiative is being viewed favorably, it is seen as a real and very important step toward working out a Soviet-U.S. agreement. Engell, Denmark's minister of defense, called the Soviet proposal an epoch event. The Austrian newspaper DIE PRESSE thinks that the way toward reaching unanimity at the Geneva talks is now open. The Japanese newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN holds the same view, while Kusumaatmandja, the Indonesian minister of foreign affairs, emphasizes that halting the arms race answers the interests of all peoples.

Washington also welcomes the Soviet initiative. Fitzwater, official representative of the White House, said the Soviet proposal is welcomed in the United States. Does it mean that things are going to move well and fast in Geneva, and that the drafting of a treaty will be done in about 2 months? The Soviet Union is counting on this, but statements by certain representatives of the administration, in particular those of Glitman, chief negotiator in the group on nuclear medium-range weapons at the Geneva talks, are putting people on their guard and feeding doubts in the sincerity of the U.S. desire to reach an accord. One hears a lot about this sincerity, but how is one to understand Glitman's words when he says in effect that there is too little time left and the Soviet Union is wrongly overloading the talks with the issue of nuclear warheads for the Pershing-1A missiles of the West German Bundeswehr?

I think the matter rests not only in the fact that the U.S. representative is laying a dead cat at our door, but more in the fact that the presence of a political will in Washington for concluding this agreement is called in question. The Soviet Union has this will and it is confirming it by practical deeds, by its proposals, whereas reservations from the U.S. side breed doubts in its striving for an agreement. Indeed, one cannot regard 72 warheads as zero! Such an attempt is both erroneous from the arithmetical point of view and is beneath criticism from the political.

Solton: Reaction 'Unanimous'

LD251757 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] The mass media and politicians around the world have been concentrating on the new Soviet initiative proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview to the MERDEKA daily. Moscow has suggested that the Soviet Union and the United States do away with all their medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Asia as well as in Europe. Commentary is by Yuriy Solton and this is what he writes:

World reaction to the new Soviet move has been more or less unanimous. Most observers agree it's an important step toward nuclear disarmament and say it demonstrates the Soviet Union's constructive approach. Those in the East are grateful to Moscow and feel that the new Soviet proposal takes into account the concern and wishes of the Asians, and in the West many people consider that the slackened Soviet-American arms talks have received a new impact. The Soviet move is indeed an important step toward an agreement, and still one must be cautious in making predictions.

True, the White House spokesman has said Washington sees reason for encouragement in the proposal. But what does he mean by saying so? And then what has braked the Geneva talks? It was Washington's demands, which run counter to the principle of equal security. Thus, the United States won't agree that the two sides simultaneously eliminate their missiles at an equal rate over 5 years. In fact, the Americans don't even want to scrap their missiles. They would rather convert them. They've been opposing adequate verification measures and refusing to negotiate the elimination of their nuclear warheads for the Pershing-1A missiles in West Germany. Moreover, they have artificially complicated the matters by saying that the Pershings belong to West Germany and therefore were not negotiable.

The Soviet Union agrees that the West German missiles be left in West Germany but it maintains the American nuclear warheads for these missiles must be withdrawn from Europe and eliminated. Otherwise there can be no real zero in missiles. The new Soviet initiative is to a certain extent a compromise and it would seem that Washington should take a reasonable approach to it. In this context the statement by the American spokesman at Geneva, Max Kampelman, looks disappointing. It was made after the Soviet team tabled the new option. Kampelman tried to justify the earlier American stand, which has already obstructed the talks. Moscow believes that an agreement on a complete elimination of the two types of missiles on the two continents can be finalized in 2 (?months). But it (?will) take a political decision on the part of Washington.

VORONTSOV WRITES ON ARMS TALKS IN MOSCOW NEWS

LD242115 Moscow TASS in English 1810 GMT 24 Jul 87

["Security Is Within Reach" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- The Soviet Union and the United States have really come close to the attainment of an agreement on the elimination of their medium and shorter-range missiles in Europe, Yuliy Vorontsov the USSR's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, writes in the latest issue of the "MOSCOW NEWS" weekly.

Last April the Soviet Union put forward new initiatives concerning the problems which (as the American side claimed) were hampering agreement. Thus we tried to give new hope to the talks. But now this hope, obviously, is in jeopardy: The American side wants to introduce new conditions into the agreement reached at Reykjavik. These new conditions are acting like a brake on the way to reaching agreement.

The USA, in particular, insists on incorporating in the treaty provisions on its right to re-equip its Pershing-2 missiles into shorter-range Pershing-1B missiles, instead of dismantling them altogether. The problem, however, is that Pershing-1B missiles can be re-equiped into Pershing-2 missiles within a matter of only two days. The United States is reluctant to destroy one or more class of medium-range missiles deployed in Europe, namely, cruise missiles.

One more important problem is the American proposal now in force to the effect that at the first stage of the agreement the Soviet Union should unilaterally reduce and dismantle its missiles, moreover, under American inspection. At the same time the American arsenal would be kept intact, whereas Soviet inspectors would not be allowed on American bases, the article says.

From the Soviet point of view, all medium-range missiles in Europe must be eliminated. We are prepared for a "global nuclear option" on conditions that the American nuclear weapons in the Far East, including those deployed in Japan, the Philippines and South Korea, are taken into account and the American aircraft-carriers in the Pacific are withdrawn beyond definite agreed lines.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS 'STRANGE U.S. BEHAVIOR' IN GENEVA

PM241607 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Bessmenov article: "Those Who Are 'Applying the Brakes' in Geneva" -- passages between slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva continue to attract the international public's attention. The nature of such close and constant attention needs no lengthy explanation, I think: To a large extent it will be decided here whether or not the process of /real/ disarmament will at last begin on the basis of the historic platform set out in Reykjavik. The unique opportunity to begin that process right now by destroying two classes of nuclear arms belonging to the USSR and the United States -- namely, medium-range and operational and tactical missiles -- must not be missed.

The talks themselves are confidential in character. Perhaps that also explains why people are examining in microscopic detail the commentaries connected with the Geneva discusssions, particularly if they come from Soviet and U.S. representatives. This consideration, coupled with the fact that the talks have entered a decisive phase, places special responsibility on the two countries' officials and demands objective and balanced views.

Against this background one cannot fail to notice the considerable change in the U.S. Administration's propaganda line recently. Some 2 weeks ago Washington figures' comments were deliberately couched in optimistic tones, with emphasis on the fact that the talks as a whole and above all on the questions of medium-range missiles were developing successfully and that the unresolved questions were not an insurmountable obstacle. It was all down to the USSR's postion, they said, although it must be borne in mind that even in Washington sensible people were admitting that the road to a productive round of talks was opened by the USSR's rational proposals.

The picture of the Geneva talks then began to acquire a clearly pessimistic hue. The signal to change the propaganda tone was given by State Department official spokesman C. Redman, who claimed that "the Soviet Union seems to be diverging from what we regarded as a constructive or positive approach to some of the existing problems." As ever, the first to announce "message received" was the British Foreign Office. Minister of State Mellor stated that he had observed "signs of procrastination from the Soviet side" (It is true that Premier Thatcher corrected Mellor 3 days later when she said: "I do not believe that the Russians are slowing down the efforts in arms control"). But matters developed. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Ridgway said: Moscow wants "to achieve in the propaganda sphere what it could not achieve at the negotiating table." Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Director Adelman stated: "Moscow is trying to alarm Washington by putting the brake on the adoption of disarmament proposals." Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks, said: "The Soviets are applying the brakes..."

The obliging U.S. mass media indulged in an excess of loyalty by augmenting the official thesis with detailed rumors to the effect that the Russians had decided to exploit Irangate to wring the necessary concessions from a "weakened president."

Primarily to seek an answer to the question of the motives that have prompted the Americans to so abruptly change their assessment of Geneva, let us impartially examine how matters actually stand at the talks and how the sides' positions are changing there.

In general, the sides managed to make some progress in the eighth round of the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms -- mainly (although not exclusively) by virtue of the efforts in the group discussing /medium-range and operational and tactical missiles./ A second version of a joint draft treaty was recently completed and specific proposals are now being worked out, although the text of the moment contains more formulas within parentheses, that is, those not agreed, than outside parentheses, that is, those which are agreed. Nevertheless, there has been movement.

Constructive work was made possible -- and this fact is indisputable -- by the Soviet submission in April of the well-known "double-zero option" for the solution of the problem of medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe, which also took account of the wishes of our partners in the talks for a separate solution of the medium-range missiles question and in addition the elimination of operational and tactical missiles. This major step by the Soviet Union opened the door to the rapid attainment of an agreement. The talks seemed to hae entered the home stretch. But following the U.S. penchant for using automobile terminology in a political setting, the United States has shifted into low gear and slowed down.

It took the United States 2 months to coordinate its reply to the Soviet proposal with the allies. This, however, was only a minor problem. The main one was how the United States could pocket our concessions while retaining the most unconstructive elements of its line at the medium-range and operational and tactical missile talks and digging its heels, saying: "Thus far and no further."

What are the Americans' "entrenched" positions?

On the question of converting its medium-range missiles into other types of armaments, the United States is trying to exempt its medium-range missiles [sredniye rakety] from the commitments on their elimination. It claims the right to transform the Pershing-2's into Pershing-1B's, transfer GLCM's to ships, or fit them with conventional charges.

The U.S. delegation is still insisting on a medium-range missile reduction procedure whereby at the first stage Soviet medium-range missiles alone would be eliminated unilaterally and the U.S. missiles would remain for a long time without being reduced and not even subject to any monitoring [kontrol].

A major new obstacle was placed in the way of an agreement. The U.S. side suddenly demanded that it should keep in Europe its nuclear warheads intended for the 72 West German Pershing-1A operational and tactical missiles. Thus, it was discovered that the United States, while posing the question of reducing operational and tactical missiles to zero, had in mind absolute zero for the USSR and "semi-zero" for itself. Moreover, on the pretext of the further modernization of FRG missiles, the United States had the idea of continuing to produce Pershing-1B " to the West German". The trick is that a peashing IB operational and tactical missile can be converted in a matter of hours into a Pershing-2 medium-range missile capable of reaching targets in the USSR. This would complete the circle: The United States would appear to remove the Pershing-2's from Europe, but would put them back via the FRG. It would be a patent and perfidious contravention of the treaty.

This U.S. line has so far prevented a final agreement on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles, which is within reach, from being achieved. These kinds of delays and obstacles (we have cited just a few of them) have seriously inhibited progress at the Geneva talks.

The U.S. position /on strategic offensive arms/ is unconstructive. At the current round of talks the USSR delegation has consistently sought to develop the mutual understanding reached on the question of a 50-percent reduction of these armaments in Reykjavik, in particular on the reduction of Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms over a period of five years so that by the end of the period each side would be left with no more than 1,600 strategic weapon delivery vehicles and no more than 6,000 warheads on them. A separate level would be set for SLCM's.

The United States adopted a line at the talks that has diverged increasingly from the understandings reached in the Icelandic capital. It made a number of unacceptable demands. For example, on the exclusion of long-range SLCM's from any limitations (the idea being to channel the strategic arms race in that direction), and on establishing sublevels for strategic offensive arms that would totally demolish the structure of the strategic armaments retained by the USSR after reduction and would also make it easier for the United States to construct SDI. On top of that, the U.S. delegation suddenly decided to demand that the Soviet Backfire bomber, which figures in joint Soviet-American documents as medium-range and has never been classed as strategic, be incorporated in the aforementioned sublevels (the idea being to try to make the USSR either go along with the elimination of these bombers, which have nothing to do with the talks, or keep them, but destroy the same number of strategic delivery vehicles within the framework of a single level for strategic offensive arms).

But the most significant thing is that the Americans are doing their utmost to revise the fundamental understanding reached during the Geneva meeting between the Soviet and U.S. leaders on the intrinsic relationship between strategic offensive arms reductions and the prevention of an arms race in space.

/In the space group/ the U.S. side is in a state of slumber and is avoiding serious work. As is known, during this visit to Moscow in April Secretary of State Shultz was given an account of compromise solutions envisaging the strengthening of the ABM Treaty on the basis of mutual pledges not to withdraw from the treaty for 10 years while strictly observing all its provisions; an accord on the line between activity that is permitted and activity that is forbidden by the treaty by agreeing on a list of devices that would not be allowed to be put into space, even for experimental purposes; and also an accord on permitted research activity on earth -- in laboratories, at test sites, and in manufacturing plants, including activity in the open air.

It would appear that the American delegation in Geneva, having planned the destruction of the ABM Treaty, is basically concerned with securing the most favourable conditions for carrying out the "Star Wars" program -- that product of distorted thinking.

That is the true picture of what is happening at the Geneva talks.

Kampelman, in his NEW YORK TIMES article of 21 July, was clearly being artful when he said that the "United States has repeatedly been the side setting the tone at the talks." He did not, after all, say what sort of tone it was, and that, on checking, proves to be a negative one.

What, however, are the /reasons/ for such U.S. behavior? I would suggest the following:

First, it is clear that the childish weakness of taking a bit more for oneself and of seeking solutions through unilateral concessions on the part of one's partner while forgoing nothing for oneself is still strong among some people in Washington. It is this illusion rather than any technical details that is capable of seriously blocking the accord.

Second, there are highly influential U.S. forces opposed to any agreement on disarmament and generally stiffen their resistance at the key moments when the outline of such an agreement begins to emerge. These forces are now trying to form a block with political circles in countries that are America's closest allies for whom the nuclear arsenals are the be-all and end-all of their approach to international affairs.

Third, overt and covert opponents of the accord are perhaps counting on using the difficult U.S. domestic political situation for their own purposes. For this they are resorting to a tried and tested device: Without any grounds at all they are planning their own short-term policies ("Irangate" among them).

Four, there are people in the administration itself who are seeking to gain time and delay the adoption of the necessary policy decision. They are suggesting "patriotic" postures to the president, hoping inwardly that their unacceptability to the Soviet side may wreck the accord.

Other reasons for the strange U.S. behavior in Geneva are also possible. But that is not the point. The important thing is that this behavior is alarming.

The Soviet Union's approach to drawing up a substantial accord with the Reagan administration on all the questions under discussion in Geneva is principled in nature and is not subject to short-term changes of course. This is shown by our practical deeds. The new, one can say without exaggeration, globally important Soviet proposal to completely eliminate all Soviet and U.S. medium-range and operational and tactical missiles both in Europe and Asia put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in the interview he gave to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA says better than any words what it is that guides the Soviet side at the present crucial stage in international and Soviet-American relations. The powerful boost generated by the radical Soviet initiatives should also impart momentum in other basic areas of the talks on the nuclear-space package.

The American side does not have to do so much -- it has to show constructiveness, release the artificial brakes, and focus efforts on completing the work on the treaty. The Soviet Union will continue to do everything possible both in Geneva and, if necessary, at a higher political level to realize the unprecedented possibility of executing a turn toward nuclear deescalation, toward creating a real nuclear-free world.

OBUKHOV: U.S. VERIFICATION 'OVERCOMPLICATED, UNFAIR'

AU241512 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 24 (AFP) -- A Soviet negotiator here on Friday decried U.S. verification proposals for the elimination of Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) as overcomplicated and unfair.

The official, Aleksey Obukhov, in a news conference, was amplifying two of the four conditions spelled out by the Soviet Armed Forces Chief of Staff Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev Thursday to a Soviet proposal for an INF withdrawal, not only in Europe but also in Asia. That proposal had been made by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview with an Indonesian newspaper, made late Wednesday.

The Soviet official also reiterated Moscow's insistence that the U.S. withdraw its warheads from the West Germany Army's 72 Pershing 1-A missiles. Washington on Thursday rejected that precondition, set out by Marshal Akhromeyev.

Mr. Obukhov said that the verification of an accord for the elimination of medium-range missiles would pose problems in transporting verification equipment to where it was needed and regarding access to sites. He said that U.S. proposals for verifying the elimination of INF were "overcomplicated" and would take "at least a year to be accomplished."

Mr. Obukhov's U.S. counterpart Maynard Glitman said last month that verification was the "principal" obstacle to a U.S.-Soviet INF accord. INF, or medium-range nuclear missiles, are defined as those with ranges of between 500 and 5,000 kilometers (310 and 3,100 miles). They are divided into longer-range (LRINF) and shorter-range (SRINF) sub-categories. INF are generally contrasted with the long range strategic weapons, which are capable of hitting any part of each superpower's territory from the other.

The Soviet negotiator also said on Friday that the U.S. proposals on verification were "not equal."

"The inspection rights for U.S. inspectors will be much more than the rights given to Soviet inspectors in Western Europe."

Mr. Obukhov expressed surprise at Washington's rejection of the condition on the West German Pershings. The missiles themselves are West German property, while only the nuclear warheads belong to the U.S. Washington regards the warheads as outside the scope of the Geneva negotiations, as they involve a third nation. Mr. Obukhov said that the U.S. delegation had "no reason to be surprised" at the condition.

An agreement on the total elimination of INF, which retained the warheads on the West German Pershings would be "unrealistic," Mr. Obukhov said. Asked about a possible compromise on the warheads, the Soviet negotiator said that Moscow had brought to the negotiating table a proposal opening the way for an agreement on the "double zero" option -- covering both LRINF and SRINF. He said it was up to Washington to say whether or not it agreed and called on the United States to stop raising "artificial obstacles."

In his four conditions, Marshal Akhromeyev said Moscow demanded there should be no conversion of Pershing-2 missiles into Pershing-1's or transfers of land-based cruise missiles onto warships. He demanded the liquidation of all SRINF missiles on both sides -- including the warheads on the West German Pershing 1A's.

The Soviet Armed Forces chief called for a reduction on the basis of step by step equality in INF forces and said that verification procedures had to be "effective, real" and equal for both sides.

GENEVA SPEAKERS STRESS MEDIUM-RANGE DISARMAMENT

LD240844 Moscow TASS in English 0757 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva July 24 TASS -- The significance of elimination of medium-range missiles in the field of disarmament has taken up a prominent place in the discussion at the conference on disarmament. Belgium's Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans has said that a serious hope for concrete results appeared at the Soviet-American negotiations on that problem. Conclusions of a relevant agreement would mean a substantial reduction of the military potentials at the expense of one type of weapons of mass destruction. Belgium will render every assistance to these negotiations and is ready to take tough measures of control on its territory. Meanwhile the Belgian foreign minister backed the nuclear deterrence concept, motivating [as received] his statement by NATO's known arguments.

The Soviet-American negotiations on medium-range missiles should be supplemented with multilateral efforts within the framework on the conference on disarmament, said David Meiszter, head of the delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic. This is unfortunately being hampered by the stand of a number of Western states which link their security with the outdated nuclear deterrence strategy, though this concept does not add to security but lessens it and escalates the arms race. Addressing the particpants in the conference, New Zealand's permament representative at the U.N. Geneva Bureau Graham Fortune has said that the existence of nuclear weapons imperils national security of every state. New Zealand would welcome the early conclusion of an agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on elimination of the medium-range missiles globally. That would be not only a measure of building up confidence but could become a turning point in the arms race, the first agreement on deep reductions of nuclear armaments.

NATO DELEGATES SUBMIT DRAFT MANDATE IN VIENNA

LD271233 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Vienna July 27 TASS -- The closing session, before a break in the Vienna meeting, has been held here at the USSR Embassy within the framework of the consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member countries on questions in connection with drawing up a mandate for the future talks on force and conventional arms cuts in Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The delegations of the socialist countries have reaffirmed their principled stands set forth in the working document containing the main elements of the mandate for the future talks, which was tabled at the consultations more than a month ago.

At today's session the draft mandate was, at last, tabled also by the NATO delegations. It is based on the known "usual stability" concept, behind which is visable an attempt at evading real mutual cuts in the military potentials of the sides, excluding from the subject of the future talks the most destabilizing, offensive types of weapons -- the tactical nuclear weapons and tactical strike air force. Besides the NATO document excludes, as a matter of fact, the possibility of direct participation in the future talks of neutral and nonaligned states of Europe. Representatives of the Warsaw Treaty member states gave in their speeches a preliminary general evaluation of the NATO document and noted that it does not contain an adequate response to the major proposals of the socialist states on force and conventional arms cuts in Europe.

It has been agreed that the consultations will be continued after the Vienna meeting of representatives of the states -- participants in the Conference on European Security and Cooperation, resumes its session in September.

ZAKHAROV EVALUATES CSCE WORK ON MILITARY ISSUES

LD251448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] A session of representatives from the states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe continues in Vienna. Major General Zakharov, member of the Soviet delegation, gives his evaluation of its work in military matters.

[Zakharov] The main thing is that we have succeeded in thwarting the attempts by the United States and some of its closest allies to take the issues of disarmament away from the all-European process. One can say directly now that there are changes.

For example, the NATO member countries consent to have the military aspects of these (considerations) recorded in the final document of the Vienna meeting. Earlier they had simply flatly refused to do this. The NATO member countries, however, are clearly trying to drag things out. In particular, we have not yet edited the final document. At the consultations between the two blocs on the conditions of the future talks on conventional arms, the conversation is being conducted now on the basis of the document proposed by the Warsaw Pact. We all feel that the tone is set precisely by the Warsaw Pact [word indistinct].

Yet there are barriers according to the NATO bloc here, too. The main barrier to working out the mandate, according to them, is our proposal to include tactical nuclear arms in the scope of the talks. If one uses military language, one has to say frankly that the NATO doctrine and the U.S. doctrine is built on deterrence. They make no secret of the fact that tactical nuclear arms are an element of deterrence. We are told that we -- meaning the Warsaw Pact -- have superiority in tactical nuclear arms and in tactical strike aircraft. We answer: Okay, let us liquidate this imbalance, as you call it; let us have negotiations, that is what we are suggesting. At that point they make a sharp turn and say: No, we are not going to hold negotiations. So we ask: So this means that there is no superiority on the part of the Warsaw Pact? Silence is their reply.

Our proposal on doctrines has played a useful part, and now 35 states here are listening attentively to this proposal, as it is for the first time not simply a defense doctrine, but a doctrine directed against war and toward consolidating the foundations of security for all, that has been proclaimed. The very fact of its being proclaimed has a beneficial effect on the climate in Europe.

BOGACHEV LAUDS BLOC NATIONS' DISARMAMENT PLANS

LD241826 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 24 Jul 87

["Important Peace Initiatives of Socialist Countries" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

Early in May of the current year, the head of the Polish United Workers' Party, president of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic came out with important initiatives to reduce armaments and strengthen confidence in the centre of Europe which are known now as the "Jaruzelski plan". A few days ago, the Polish Foreign Ministry presented in Warsaw to the heads of diplomatic representations of the participating countries in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe a memorandum which offers on the basis of the "Jaruzelski plan" with taking into account the changes that have occurred in the world of late, a concrete large-scale programme to lessen the persisting danger of an armed conflict in Europe, and particularly for the prevention of a possibility of a surprise attack.

The memorandum says the Polish Government is convinced that at present there exist conditions that make it possible to adopt measures aimed at ensurance of equal security for European states, provided their military potentials are kept at a much lower level than the existing one.

Poland's proposal is aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation in the zone comprising the territories of nine states: Belgium, Hungary, GDR, FRG, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Poland. The plan, specifically, presupposes gradual withdrawal and reduction of definite, jointly agreed-upon types of arms and amounts of nuclear weapons, as well as conventional arms.

It is precisely the "Jaruzelski Plan" that first placed on the agenda the question of changing the nature of military doctrines of states in such a way that they could be mutually recognised as exclusively defensive. The memorandum of the Polish Government proclaims the need to justify military doctrines by the principle of sufficiency, in accordance with which each state should have only such a military potential as is necessary for ensuring effective defences.

The memorandum of the Polish People's Republic emphasizes the insistent need to agree upon appropriate and far-reaching measures for confidence-building and security, as well as mechanisms for stringent verification of the observance of the obligations assumed in the centre of the European Continent, including those which it would be difficult to apply, for various reasons to entire Europe.

The Polish plan proceeds from the opportunity for parallel discussion and implementation of disarmament in three territorial zones, that is in the belt on both sides of the line of contact of the two opposing military-political groups, in the region of central Europe and throughout Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The plan of the Polish People's Republic is linked harmoniously with the Budapest address of the Warsaw Treaty countries, with the initiatives of the USSR, GDR, Czechoslovakia, other countries of the socialist community. But this is not just a sum total of the previous proposals. This is an original document and one of its most important specific features is that in the sphere of conventional armaments the emphasis is placed on the kinds of arms that have the greatest destructive force and precision, that is on the most dangerous, destabilizing means of warfare. The Polish proposals suggest a number of new concrete methods for implementing disarmament, verification, procedures facilitating the implementation of arms reductions.

The community of socialist states and every separate socialist state exert persistent efforts to consolidate peace and international security. The important peace initiative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, aimed at easing tension in the Korean peninsula, is a new example of such efforts. The Government of the DPRK, specifically, suggests that stage-by-stage reductions of the armies of the DPRK and South Korea be carried out in 1988-1991, so that their numerical strength in the North and the South of Korea be respectively reduced to 100 thousand servicemen. With the achievement of practical results in this direction, U.S. troops and their nuclear armaments should be evacuated stage-by-stage from South Korea so that all U.S. nuclear bases be removed from the Korean peninsula by the time the North and the South complete the aforementioned arms reduction.

The Soviet people strongly support the efforts of the fraternal socialist countries aimed at ridding the globe of the threat of nuclear war and are prepared to take all necessary actions for their implementation.

DEFENSE MINISTER YAZOV WRITES ON PACT DOCTRINE

PM262031 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[Article by Defense Minister Army General D.T. Yazov: "The Military Doctrine of the Warsaw Pact Is the Doctrine of the Defense of Peace and Socialism]

[Text] A document entitled "On the Military Doctrine of the Warsaw Pact Member States" was adopted at the Political Consultative Committee conference which took place 28-29 May this year in Berlin. In evaluating highly the contents of the document, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo stated that it precisely expresses the defensive nature of the military strategy of socialism and serves the development of dialogue between the Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO and the strengthening of trust in Europe.

The document's fundamental propositions about the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact are an example of the manifestation of new political thinking on questions of war and peace in the nuclear age and on the problems of defense and of ensuring equal security for all states. They wholly accord with the interests of the socialist community as a whole and with the national interests of each of the allied socialist countries, and they do not contradict the interests of any other state.

Why did the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states need to be published? What are its main distinctive features? How are the provisions of the doctrine reflected in the military building of the Warsaw Pact countries? All these questions evoke special interest insofar as they reveal the aims and intentions of the allied socialist states and the essence of the new philosophy of security in the nuclear space era.

I.

The military doctrine of each state stems from its social system and policy and it determines the attitude toward fundamental questions of war and peace. Insofar as in the modern world major military-political alliances of state are a political reality and even confront each other, then along with the national doctrines of the states which make up these alliances each of these alliances can have a corporate military doctrine.

The Warsaw Pact organization is a qualitatively new sociohistorical phenomenon which arose naturally from the need to defend the working people's socialist gains against the encroachments of the aggressive imperialist forces. The entire history of the defensive Warsaw alliance proves incontrovertibly that the socialist community countries do not threaten anyone and have no intention of attacking anyone. Peace, not war, is needed for socialist and communist building. The allied socialist states' peace-loving policy also determines the nature of the military doctrine on which the defense activities of the Warsaw Pact are based and which reflects the fraternal countries' common defensive military-political objectives.

The main propositions of the military doctrine ensue from the policy of the Warsaw Pact member states' communist and workers parties. By officially advancing a single military doctrine now, the fraternal socialist countries are pursuing the aim of once again demonstrating to the world public their approach to the problems of war, peace, and security in conditions of the realities of the nuclear age. [paragraph continues]

This approach is based on a profound understanding of the fact that in the present situation where vast arsenals of nuclear weapons have been built up, weapons which present a danger to the existence of mankind itself, a nuclear war cannot be used as a means of achieving political aims. "Now," M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, has pointed out, "it is perfectly obvious to anyone that the old notions of war as a means of achieving political aims are completely outdated. In the nuclear age these outdated dogmas nurture a policy which could lead to a worldwide holocaust."

The nuclear danger is a threat to all; the problem of survival has become mankind's main task. The allied socialist countries conclude from this reality that in the present situation there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence, equitable cooperation, and mutual understanding between all states. Objective conditions have developed in which, in the socialist community's view, the confrontation between capitalism and socialism must take the shape, solely and exclusively, or peaceful competition, peaceful rivalry.

The new situation demands a new approach to the problem of states' security. The allied socialist countries are convinced that the genuine security of all and each of us individually depends on common efforts with a view to creating a nuclear-free and nonviolent world rather than on the further buildup of nuclear potentials and the development of new mass annihilation weapon systems. However, this conclusion is not shared by the U.S. Administration. It still adheres to its policy of hegemonism; it has not given up the hope of social revenge, it continues to entertain the illusion of strong-arm confrontation, and it is putting up a fierce resistance to the socialist countries' new course. All this creates a threat of war and dangerous tension in the world.

The publication of the Warsaw pact member countries' military doctrine was brought about by the need to reduce this tension through the adoption of measures conducive to the reduction of armed forces and armaments, to lessening the threat of war, and strengthening confidence. The correct understanding of the nature of military doctrines is of utmost importance here since they embody the aims and intentions of states and military-political alliances in the military sphere. The socialist countries advocate a meeting between Warsaw Pact and NATO experts at which each side would objectively and dispassionately examine and explain to the other side the content and thrust of their military doctrines, compare concepts, and jointly study the trends of their further evolution and seek to arrive at a common view of this evolution. This is what the Warsaw Pact member states had in mind when the adopted the decision to publish their military doctrine. They are proposing that the sides should mutually convince each other of the sincerity of their aims and aspirations; they are expecting from NATO countries that the latter will, during consultations, furnish them with proof that will bear out their leaders' statements to the effect that they will use military force only in response to aggression.

In inviting representatives of NATO countries to carry out a comparison of the two military-political alliances' military doctrines, the Warsaw Pact member states have set forth the main fundamental provisions and distinctive features of their doctrine which reveal its defensive thrust.

The main feature of the Warsaw Pact military doctrine, just like the military doctrines of each of its members, is that it is subordinated to the accomplishment of the cardinal task facing mankind, the task of preventing war, both nuclear and conventional. By virtue of their social system and their peace-loving policy, the allied socialist countries have never linked their future with the military solution of international problems. [paragraph continues]

Now, in the situation of nuclear confrontation, solving the world's problems by military means is simply impermissible. Therefore they favor the resolution of controversial international issues by peaceful methods and political means alone. Our military doctrine is a system of fundamental views on how to forestall war, how to conduct military building, and how to prepare our countries and their armed forces for rebuffing aggression and waging an armed struggle in defense of socialism.

It follows from this definition that the doctrine of the fraternal socialist countries is spearheaded against war and aims at strengthening the foundations of universal security. As the classical authors of Marxism-Leninism have noted more than once, the Communists' objective is the elimination of wars from the life of society. The CPSU and the fraternal communist parties, guided by the Marxist-Leninist teaching, believe that no matter how great the threat created by the policy of the aggressive imperialist circles is today, it is possible to prevent war and to save mankind from a nuclear catastrophe. In this lies the historic mission of socialism and all the planet's progressive and peace-loving forces.

The key feature of the Warsaw Pact military doctrine is its defensive nature. How does it manifest itself? In all our practical steps, our domestic and foreign policy, and our military building.

The allied socialist states have declared before all mankind that they will never, under any circumstances, be the first to initiate military operations against any state or alliance of states whatsoever unless they themselves are the target of an armed attack, and that they will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. The USSR and the other socialist countries have no territorial claims against any state either in Europe or elsewhere. The socialist community countries do not regard any state or any people as their enemy. On the contrary, they are prepared to build relations based on a reciprocal consideration of each other's security interests and on peaceful coexistence with any country in the world without exception.

The doctrine's defensive thrust is directly reflected in the sphere of the Warsaw Pact countries' military building. Thus the pledges never to be the first to use nuclear weapons and never to initiate military operations have been and remain an immutable postulate of military building of the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact countries. It is implemented in practice in the training of staffs and troops, in the organization of the most rigorous control aimed at the prevention of nonsanctioned use of nuclear weapons, ranging from tactical to strategic nuclear weapons, in the enhancement of the combat readiness of troops to rebuff aggression, in their technical equipment, in the improvement of control and communications, and the enhancement of the moral and political standards of personnel.

All these are by no means must verbal assurances, it is a concrete program for building the Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact as a whole. It is based on the principle of defense sufficiency. What does this mean? In general terms it means having precisely the magnitude of armed forces necessary to defend oneself against an attack from outside. Specifically it means that the composition of the armed forces and the quantity and quality of the means of armed struggle are rigorously measured against the level of the threat of war and the nature and intensity of imperialist military preparations and are defined by the requirements of ensuring the security of the Warsaw Pact countries and rebuffing aggression. It was emphasized at the Political Consultative Committee conference in Berlin that the Armed Forces of the allied states are being maintained at a level of combat readiness sufficient to prevent being caught unawares. Should they, nonetheless, be attacked, they will give a crushing rebuff to the aggressor.

The prevention of war and readiness to rebuff an aggressor -- these two tasks are linked and stem from the fact that the United States and NATO have not renounced the first use of nuclear weapons, are building up their strategic offensive potential on a vast scale, and are trying to achieve military superiority. In practice we constantly come up against the military strong-arm policy of NATO which is geared to the arms race and preparations for war. Practically every day, U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger is calling for a buildup of military preparations and a "struggle between the free world and communism." He is threatening the socialist countries, advocating an "armed truce" rather than peaceful coexistence in East-West relations. These are no mere words, they are backed up by mountains of weapons, programs for the production of new, even more destructive types of weapons, and directives for their implementation.

The allied socialist countries cannot but take all this into account. After all, this is a question of plans to encroach on their independence and sovereignty. Therefore, the Warsaw pact member states consider reliably ensuring the security of their peoples their paramount duty. For this they must have the appropriate defense potential and modern armed forces and arms capable of defending people's peaceful labor and peaceful life. The entire system of the Warsaw Pact's defense readiness is built in such a way as to stop an aggressor, to thwart his criminal plans, and should an aggression against any of the pact's states occur through the imperialists' fault, to resolutely rebuff it.

Any conjectures about an aggressor possibly escaping punishment are unfounded. We closely follow the military preparations of the United States and NATO; we observe and correctly assess the dangerous trends as they appear in this process, and we take care to ensure that our defense potential develops correspondingly. When we speak of maintaining the armed forces and our military potential at a level of reasonable sufficiency, we have in mind that at the present stage the essence of sufficiency regarding the Soviet strategic nuclear forces is determined by the need to prevent anyone getting away with impunity with a nuclear attack in any, even the most unfavorable, circumstances. As for conventional means, sufficiency amounts to a quantity and quality of armed forces and armaments capable of reliably ensuring the collective defense of the socialist community. It is not we who set the limits of sufficiency, it is the actions of the United States and NATO. The Warsaw Pact countries do not aspire to military superiority, they do not seek greater security but neither will they accept a lower security or tolerate anyone's military superiority over themselves.

The decisive factor in preventing war at present remains military-strategic parity. The approximately equal correlation of the two alliances' military forces given the tremendous destructive force of modern weapons, both nuclear and conventional, makes war between them senseless. The parity ensures the possibility of retaliatory action in any circumstances, entailing the infliction of unacceptable damage on the aggressor.

Does this mean that as the level of military equilibrium rises, the strategic situation in the world will remain stable, and security will remain reliable? No, it does not. On the contrary, experience indicates that a further rise in the level of parity does not result in greater security. The continuation of the arms race inevitably increases the threat of war and can increase it to such an extent where even parity stops being a factor of military-political deterrence. This is why the task of outlawing nuclear weapons, gradually eliminating them and all other means of mass destruction, and radically reducing military confrontation is becoming more and more crucial. Proceeding from the principle of sufficiency, the Warsaw Pact member states propose to reduce, on a mutual basis of course, the military potentials to such a level where neither of the sides, while ensuring its defense, has the forces or means enabling it to mount offensive operations.

II.

Following their defensive doctrine, the USSR and the Warsaw Pact countries are persistently striving to achieve goals aimed at halting the arms race, attaining specific results in the disarmament sphere, and eliminating the nuclear threat. They are trying to prove this by practical deeds.

The Soviet Union did not conduct nuclear tests for a year and a half while the United States was increasing the number of explosions in Nevada. Even now we are ready any day or any month to suspend [priostanovit] nuclear tests on the basis of reciprocity. The United States, as is known, does not want to end nuclear tests.

The Soviet Union has done everything necessary to create real opportunities for the conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. It undertook substantial compromises: It agreed not to take into account the nuclear missiles of Britain and France; it postponed the resolution of the problem of medium-range airborne means [aviatsionnyye sredstva].

Taking into account the interests of the security of the Asian states, the USSR expressed readiness to undertake the elimination of all its medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles not only in Europe, but also in Asia. Provided, of course, that the United States does the same. In so doing, the USSR is setting aside the question of the other U.S. nuclear weapons in the Asian-Pacific region. At the same time, we hope that the United States will refrain from building up its nuclear potential in that region.

Thanks to our far-reaching initiative nothing now stands in the way of taking a first step along the path toward a significant reduction of nuclear weapons which, possibly, would open up prospects for other, more major accords. The ball is now in the court of the United States and NATO.

On the negotiating table there are other constructive proposals of ours: on the radical (50 percent) reduction of strategic offensive arms of the USSR and United States with the simultaneous reinforcement of the ABM Treaty regime, including a ban on the testing of space-based ABM components in space; on the total end to nuclear tests under strict international verification, including on-site inspection; on the prohibition and elimination of chemical and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

A special place in the practical actions of the Warsaw Pact countries is logically assigned to Europe -- a region in which major groups of the armed forces of the two military-political alliances are directly confronting each other, a region where the conflagrations of world wars have twice begun. For the purposes of lowering military confrontation, the socialist countries in June 1986 at Budapest launched a proposal on a considerable reduction of armed forces and tactical nuclear and conventional armaments in Europe (from the Atlantic to the Urals). Unfortunately, the NATO countries have so far given no answer to this proposal.

The socialist states proceed from the premise that the process of arms reduction must be continuous in order in the final analysis to exclude the very military-technical possibility of an attack by some parties against others. In this process any other approach is inadmissible just as it is inadmissible, while reducing some armaments, to open an arms race in other directions. The allied socialist states call on the NATO countries to display restraint in the military sphere and to renounce the use of military force on a mutual basis.

They also believe that an opportunity exists to solve a very important problem which is disturbing the European peoples -- namely, the limitation of sides' opportunities for a surprise attack. For this they are proposing specific measures: the reduction of armed forces and armaments to a minimum agreed level in the zone where the two military alliances are directly continguous; the withdrawal from this zone of the most dangerous, offensive types of arms; the creation of a 300-km nuclear-free corridor (150 km on each side) along the line where the Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO meet, from which all nuclear weapons would be withdrawn on a reciprocal basis; the creation in Europe of zones free of nuclear and chemical weapons, and zones with a reduced concentration of arms and heightened confidence. To all these proposals NATO has responded with refusal.

Having promulgated their military doctrine, the socialist countries are appealing to other states, above all the members of NATO, to take a look at their own military doctrines through the prism of the Warsaw Pact doctrine. It is known that the NATO countries also present their own military doctrine -- the doctrine of "flexible response" which includes the guideline for a nuclear first strike -- as a defensive doctrine. But this is a trick, designed to delude simpletons. We can perceive the persistent desire of the United States and NATO to strengthen their security not together with others, but at the expense of others, and to ensure for themselves military superiority along the paths of the arms race, by opening up new directions in this race. Hence the renunciation of real nuclear disarmament, the refusal to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons, and hence the systematic holding of large-scale exercises near the borders of the socialist countries and the enflaming of a tense situation in other regions of the world. All this naturally does not tally with the statements about the defensive nature of their doctrine.

The NATO concept of "nuclear deterrence" also bears no relation to defense. Why do we consider that to be so? Because this concept dates from the cold war and by its very essence it is contradictory and dangerous. After all, while declaring that a nuclear conflict would turn out to be a catastrophe for everyone, one cannot forcefully advocate at the same time the retention of nuclear weapons as a means of ensuring peace. The NATO concept does not make it possible to seek a solution to the nuclear problem. It encourages the arms race and leads to the further accumulation of lethal weapons, it renders military equilibrium shaky and increases the risk of the outbreak of a nuclear war.

Responsibility for the tension in the world rests primarily with the United States. The ruling circles of that country are reluctant to renounce the arms race and are trying to make their way into space with weapons and to threaten all mankind from space. In so doing they fail to see the duplicity of their policy. In public they speak of a desire to achieve strategic stability, an "atmosphere of trust," but in practice they are making encroachments on parity and leading matters toward military superiority and to the creation of even greater asymmetry in the armaments and armed forces of the sides. The military preparations of the United States and NATO on a wide scale, the buildup of their military potential close to the territory of the USSR and other socialist states, the incessant provocative violations of their air and sea borders, the delirious plans being hatched to dismantle the social system in the socialist countries -- these and other hostile actions by the forces of imperialism do not consolidate, but undermine universal peace and security.

Of late, at Washington's say-so, there have been incessant attempts in the West to pass off the shortcomings that have occurred in the organization of standby combat alert duty for the protection of airspace as a manifestation of weakness on the part of the Soviet Armed Forces and to prompt certain hotheads to test our security in other directions.

Let me say bluntly: We would not advise anyone to test our strength. The response to provocations is the strengthening defensive might of the Warsaw Pact countries and the enhancement of the vigilance and combat readiness of their armed forces. Above all this applies to the forces and means that perform standby alert combat duty. They are ready and capable at any moment and in any situation to accomplish the combat tasks entrusted to them.

The defensive military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact which is designed exclusively for parrying a military threat, by no means signifies that our actions will be of a passive nature. They will be based on the unshakeable foundation of Lenin's teaching about the defense of the socialist fatherland. In the event of aggression our Armed Forces, together with the fraternal socialist armies, will defend the socialist gains with total determination. The security of our country and of the socialist community as a whole is a sacred matter for us.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD262105 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 26 Jul 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, not further identified; Yuriy Aleksandrovich Gremitskikh, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry press center; Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, not further identified]

[Text] [Zholkver] Hello, comrades. Every day brings new reports of the enormous interest aroused throughout the world by the restructuring that is taking place in our country -- though it must be said that the significance of that interest varies. From distant Indonesia comes news that there, too, our words perestroyoka [restructuring] and glasnost are well known and need no translation. The editor in chief of the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA said so in his conversation with Comrade Gorbachev. I know that the foreign journalists accredited in our country are taking an especially great -- and, I would say, professional -- interest in our restructuring. One can see that for oneself, as it were, at the numerous news conferences held at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center. You, Yuriy Aleksandrovich, as the head of that press center, come across this especially often. What questions and what problems interest our foreign guests, particularly at the present time?

[Gremitskikh] If we take the past 6 months, we've been holding various news events, news conferences, information meetings, and talks. Groups of foreign correspondents and individual correspondents have made many trips around the country. All the same, I think that they are political journalists first and foremost; but you only have to glance at the hall of the press center to see how many of these political journalists are present at, say, a news conference of the leaders of the State Agro-industrial Committee [Gosagroprom] or of the leaders of the State Committee for Standards [Gosstandart] on the problems of restructuring. Or, say, at a news conference given by the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Comrade Kamentsev, on problems of external trade contacts and on questions concerning the setting-up of joint ventures. Or, say, at the talks by our leading economists, Aganbegyan and Abalkin.

Or, say, at a recent event during the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, when Comrade Sitnikov, the first secretary of Irkutsk Obkom, and Comrade Morgun, the first secretary of Poltava Obkom, came along to meet the journalists. They were interested in literally everything: how our economy is operating under the conditions created by restructuring, how we are restructuring the spiritual sphere, how social questions are being solved, how those questions are being tackled on the national scale, throughout the Union, and at particular enterprises, and what part is being played by the collectives, by particular people, by particular managers, in creating the new policy and new working and living conditions for the people.

Of course, individual journalists have different approaches and attitudes. Some, of course, try to add something to the facts -- some distorting comment, even. But still, most of them are showing, in the first place, sincere interest, and, in the second place, great interest.

[Zholkver] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, I would like to add something about some of the results of these many news conferences that you have been holding. I have seen some of the materials that already have been published in the foreign press. In ASAHI, for instance, there was a long interview with the director of the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union with regard to the adoption in our country of the new law on the state enterprise.

Simultaneously in two papers I saw materials, for example, on the progress of restructuring at Sumy Machine-Building Association; the experiment at Sumy was reported in both ASAHI and the British INDEPENDENT. So here there is very great interest and coverage, though I must say it is not always very objective. The reportage in THE INDEPENDENT on the Sumy Machine-Building Association was quite detailed, but then it was followed by comment in which all sorts of guesswork was indulged in regarding the way things might develop in the Soviet Union. By the way, some of them are trying to prompt us importunately as to the way in which that restructuring should go: that it should go, as it were, from socialism in the direction of capitalism, though it should be said that very many of them approach this situation fairly objectively, realistically. We have already mentioned the Indonesian paper MERDEKA. It is writing now that it is thanks to the Great October Socialist Revolution that the Soviet Union has been able to achieve gigantic progress in all spheres of life.

[Kolchanov] Rather than quote newspapers here, I am more inclined to quote some of my foreign colleagues with whom I've talked recently. Just a few days ago I met the head of the Moscow Bureau of THE WASHINGTON POST, Gary Lee. Since the weather was nice, I asked him how his work was going. I said, I suppose you are taking it easy -- it is summer after all. He said, what are you talking about? There is no time to relax: All this is so interesting to write about. A fortnight ago I was talking to political observer of the West German weekly -- the influential weekly -- DIE ZEIT, Schmidt-Haeuer, and he gave more or less the same reply: There is much that is interesting, much that is serious, and we are all writing a very great deal about it.

[Zholkver] It should be said that this is true not only of the journalists, but also of prominent economists. I have seen, for instance, some extensive materials prepared by the professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (Herbert Levin), analyzing the materials of our June plenum, and noting that there exists in the Soviet Union an indissoluble link between economics, politics and sociology, an that change is under way in all three of these areas. Of course, he remarks that there are quite a few problems in the path of restructuring, both problems of a purely technical kind and political and social ones; but he considers that the most important element of restructuring, and the guarantee of its success, is this political adherence to restructuring on the part of the Soviet leadership in the long term, because, as he emphasizes, reforms are a long-term process, and not one in which, he emphasizes, immediate results are to be expected. I have to say that an economic analysis of this kind is doubly important and interesting at present for the United States in that they also are engaged in analyzing the economic situation in the United States itself; and there the situation is by no means being seen in rosy colors. A poll has just been taken among the heads of 105 of the largest corporations. There is a research organization in the United States called the Conference Board, and, as a result of their poll, they concluded that a financial crisis will erupt in the United States in the next 8 years, and that there will be a considerable economic recession.

[Kolchanov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, we have been discussing journalists, businessmen, and economic experts; but if we address ourselves to one specific feature -- the interest on the part of the broad public, or, as we sometimes say, not altogether correctly, perhaps, the man in the street -- then there are two aspects that stand out very clearly. One aspect is the social consequences, the social advantages, or the social tendencies of Soviet restructuring, and the second aspect is the influence of Soviet restructuring and its connection with the problems of ensuring peace. I shall focus on one poll. It was carried out in Europe, and included 6,000 people from nine European countries. Here is what it revealed: Two-thirds of the population of Western Europe consider that Soviet reforms are bringing about a real improvement of life in the Soviet Union.

Second, the population of the countries of Western Europe, also in a substantial proportion -- three to one -- considers that the Soviet Union is doing more than the United States to slow down the arms race and, ultimately, to ease tension and strengthen peace. There you have two very indicative aspects of the reactions of broad sectors of the population, of the Western man in the street to our restructuring.

[Zholkver] Well, and here is the opinion of a man not in the street, if I may so express it, an important figure, the deputy chairman of the Social Democrat faction in the Bundestag, Horst Ehmke. Incidentally, he was writing on this occasion, not in a West German journal, but in a U.S. one, the very reputable WORLD POLICY JOURNAL. He remarks that it is striking -- he says -- that the disarmament proposals put forward over the past 2 years by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, and the daring reforms he has begun in the Soviet Union -- Horst Ehmke's words -- have revived European hopes of a new and more lasting stage of international detente. You see how closely questions of internal restructuring, questions of our domestic policy, are combined with the problems of Soviet foreign policy.

[Kolchanov] In assessing what is happening in the Soviet Union no one can really dispute the fact that the strengthening of the might of the Soviet Union, the vast creative labor that the Soviet Union and the Soviet people are engaged in, is a very durable and a very major factor in stabilizing international security -- a factor in strengthening world peace.

[Zholkver] This also is confirmed by the important new peace initiative of the Soviet Union set forth by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his interview with the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA. What is being singled out here in particular, of course, is the announcement of the Soviet proposal regarding the destruction of all medium-range missiles, not only in Europe, but also in Asia. It needs saying that our country has had to show persistence and flexibility to put the preparation of an agreement to eliminate these medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe on a practical footing. This is the subject of the present talks with the Americans in Geneva. But the question of the 100 warheads on the medium-range missiles in the Asian part of our country, and of the same number -- 100 warheads -- on the corresponding U.S. missiles on U.S. territory remains unresolved.

[Kolchanov] This unresolved question perhaps has been holding back, to some extent, the progress of the Geneva talks on the European medium-range missiles and the operational and tactical missiles.

[Zholkver] Apart from everything else, one also must mention that a number of the Asian countries, due to considerations for their own national security, have raised the question of the need to eliminate all medium-range missiles in Asia, too. Now the Soviet Union, in response to the wishes expressed by the Asian countries, and desiring also to make the issues at the Geneva conference easier to resolve, has declared its willingness to eliminate both the medium-range missiles and the operational and tactical missiles on the continent of Asia -- if, of course, the United States does likewise. Well, I think the first reactions from the Asian countries and from other states, too, already have shown that this proposal has been received very positively indeed as an important step toward strengthening peace and security throughout the world, and, above all, in Asia, where the amount of potentially explosive material that has now accumulated is particularly great.

[Kolchanov] Positive reactions have come from across the Atlantic, too -- have been voiced, at least. But let us not be especially optimistic here, because it has happened more than once after the first positive reaction that negative real steps have followed. But, nonetheless, let us note the fact.

[Zholkver] Undoubtedly. But what I would remark on in this case above all, I think, is precisely the reaction of Asian countries, because on the Asian Continent, too, they have clearly been waiting a long time for this question to be resolved. It must be confessed that in recent years we experts and journalists have been more preoccupied with the problems of European security. Here positive experience has been amassed. Of course, it cannot simply be transplanted to the soil of Asia; but, in any case, questions of detente, questions of strengthening security, questions of setting up nuclear-free zones: These are now being very widely discussed in Asia, and here, of course, one cannot fail to note that quite a number of Asian states have been very active -- above all India, a great power which has put forward several proposals for creating a nonviolent world. An example of this is the Delhi Declaration signed during Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit to India. Take even the initiatives of the small island states of the Pacific. It was on their initiative, after all, that the South Pacific was declared a nuclear-free zone. Take the initiatives of New Zealand in banning visits to its ports by U.S. ships with nuclear weapons on board. These are all initiatives relating to this vast region, which is of such colossal importance for the destiny of mankind: Asia.

[Kolchanov] You are correct, in my view, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, to single out the problem, the central problem, of eliminating nuclear weapons -- that is an indisputable fact. However, in his interview with the newspaper MERDEKA, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev named several other proposals which, if implemented, could strengthen peace and security in that region of the globe. The Soviet Union, for instance, is willing to not increase the number of its aircraft-carrying nuclear weapons in the Asian part of the country -- if, of course, the United States does not deploy in that region any additional nuclear weapons capable of reaching our territory. Second, Mikhail Sergeyevich once again issued a reminder of the Soviet Union's willingness to reduce the level of activity of the naval fleets of the USSR and of the United States in the Pacific. This is a vast water area, where in general, it is the fleets that have a decisive role to play; and in his interview, Mikhail Sergeyevich made detailed proposals on how that activity by the fleets might be reduced...

[Zholkver, interrupting] Incidentally, both of the surface vessels and of the submarines.

[Kolchanov] And the submarines, yes. The fleet as a whole, so to speak -- both on and under the water. Third, the UN Declaration on turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone was adopted, as we know, more than 15 years ago. For several years, preparations have been under way for an international conference on the Indian Ocean to examine a whole range of very important and vital matters. It has been scheduled for next year, but it is not yet entirely certain that it will take place. Yet it is necessary that it should take place, and this is something that must be done by all the interested states -- of which there is a large number. Finally, the fourth thing that has been put forward in the interview of the CPSU Central Committee general secretary is the question of nuclear explosions. This, after all, is the region where the first nuclear bomb exploded, and it has been the scene of a whole series of first nuclear tests and, as it were...
[Zholkver, interrupting] On Bikini Atoll, and...

[Kolchanov, interrupting] ...And in the air and on land. Of course the people living in the area have strong feelings about this problem.

[Zholkver] I would say that if this problem is to be resolved, it is also necessary to cooperate with the United States, as a great Pacific power. This, too, cannot be left out of account, after all. No one has any intention of trying to exclude the United States from resolving or examining these problems. But, of course, it has to be on a realistic basis.

This reminds me of a book that has recently appeared in Australia by several important researchers into international relations with a remarkable title -- the book is called "The American Lake." That is what some people in the United States, from an old-established habit, call the Pacific. The American lake! No, of course, it hasn't been the American lake for a long time. But it is a problem which also concerns the United States, for a number of reasons. Well, for example, the trade turnover of the United States with the Asian and Pacific states now exceeds by a third the volume of U.S. trade with Western Europe. That must be taken into account. But, of course, to conclude from this that the Pacific is an American lake would be totally unrealistic.

By the way, Rudolf Georgiyevich, you were talking just now about our proposals for strengthening security in Asia and the Pacific. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's interview with MERDEKA also contains a whole series of proposals on strengthening economic cooperation in that region. Here I would like to cite again the positive example of our friendly and successfully developing economic ties with India. I saw a long article that appeared in the reputable Indian publication ECONOMIC TIMES, in which it is noted that since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union -- meaning his recent visit for the opening of the Indian Festival in our country -- new areas of cooperation are being opened up on many levels -- from purely commercial exchange to cooperation in the fields of biotechnology, medicine, general public health, joint research, and joint scientific technical projects. It is proposed to staff research centers and laboratories in both countries with Indian and Soviet citizens. Well, of course, there will be a considerable growth in trade.

[Kolchanov] It seems to me that we journalists talk and write too little about the possibilities of cooperation in that region. Yet, Asia and the Pacific is a very unusual region. Here the world powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are neighbors; here is China, with its huge human potential; here is Japan, economically powerful; here, as they say in the West, the new industrial states have appeared -- meaning South Korea -- and so on. In other words, this is an extensive landscape that is very varied politically and economically. That means both possibilities are evident. Here, indeed, a very great deal can be done -- to say nothing of the fact that the greater part of mankind lives there.

[Zholkver] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, when we talk about the situation in this truly vast region of Asia and the Pacific, we cannot, of course, ignore the Afghanistan situation, which is such a hotbed of tension here. I know that at those news conferences at the press center that I attended a great many questions were asked by foreign journalists, notably when Comrade Najib spoke at the press center. What, really, are the problems that are now being raised, in particular, by the press in connection with the events surrounding Afghanistan and in connection with the policy of national reconciliation that is being conducted in Afghanistan itself?

[Gremitskikh] The policy of national reconciliation is attracting a very great deal of interest. We, the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the request of foreign journalists and at the suggestion, naturally, of the Afghan side, gave assistance for a trip carried out by journalists. At the moment, once again requests are accumulating for us to again assist a trip to be carried out by a substantial group of journalists for sometime in the fall.

What is currently being done by the leadership and the political and public forces of Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan, namely, the policy of national reconciliation, is a realistic policy, it is new policy, it is a policy of very great and profound good will on the part of the leadership of Afghanistan and the PDPA, which is ready -- and it states this -- to share power with other political groups, and Comrade Najib set forth and explained this policy very clearly and in very great detail at his recent news conference at the USSR Foreign Ministry's press center. Of course, the first results of this policy are causing a great deal of interest. Undoubtedly, in fulfilling the demands formulated by social classes, the journalists would like to see difficulties...

[Zholkver, interrupting] But these difficulties do exist.

[Gremitskikh] They do exist, yes, absolutely, and Afghanistan's leaders, the PDPA leaders, and Comrade Najib, have talked specifically about these difficulties. The difficulties consist in the fact that vast forces and resources are directed by the imperialist camp, are directed by the United States first and foremost, together with the U.S. NATO allies, and Pakistan and Iran, to hinder, and even try to undermine the policy of national reconciliation. Just think, over $600 million is being directed by the United States this year for a very wide variety of aid -- military aid first and foremost -- for the rebels, that is, for the supply of weapons. They are not afraid to put the very latest missiles in the hands of rebels and terrorists, who can not only use them themselves, but also resell them.

[Zholkver] But they use them against Afghanistan's civilian aircraft.

[Gremitskikh] Yes, the civilian ones, that is to say that the purposes of these weapons are quite barbaric. But I am also talking about something else: The United States and its allies are not afraid that the very latest weapons, including these missiles, will turn up on the arms market, because the rebels are reselling these weapons. After all, they look upon this war as a definite market where they earn something for every activist killed, probably even for every mullah killed. They receive a great deal of money, there are prices for everything. This is not simply a war of dirty politics, but it is also a war of money.

[Zholkver] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, I know that foreign journalists show a great deal of interest in our, Soviet, policy toward Afghanistan.

[Gremitskikh] Undoubtedly yes. I have seen this exemplified at a whole series of information sessions, when leading representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke, as well as various political, scientific and military experts. This is convincing many people that the Soviet Union, together with the DRA leadership, is proposing a realistic line aimed at putting a stop to this crisis over Afghanistan by political means, so that Afghanistan might gain peace and calm, so that there might be calm in the region. To this end, acceptable, well thought-out, sober and realistic conditions are being put forward. It is now all up to the United States and Pakistan -- which is in considerable measure under U.S. influence -- and other forces in the region to take up an equally realistic position. Interference, armed interference, this undeclared and primarily U.S. war against the DRA must be brought to an end. Guarantees must be given that this interference will not be renewed, that Afghanistan may live a peaceful and constructive life. The Soviet Union is prepared to withdraw its limited contingent within very short periods of time.

[Zholkver] The Persian Gulf region is another confrontation zone, and we all have witnessed recently the actions of the United States, which I would describe bluntly as adventurist. What I have in mind here is that sadly notorious gunboat diplomacy which the United States is engaged in at the moment: On the pretext of securing freedom of navigation, they have set about escorting Kuwaiti tankers. And what has this led to? A very large Kuwaiti tanker being escorted by the U.S. "Bridgeton" with a water displacement of 400,000 tons, in the final analysis still struck a mine on the approach to one of the Kuwaiti ports. So this escorting is no solution to the problem; on the contrary, it further complicates this problem. The more so in that a paradoxical situation comes about here -- with one hand the United States voted in the full sense of the word for the UN Security Council Resolution calling for an urgent cessation of the Iran-Iraq war -- on the one hand -- and which calls upon all countries having anything to do with this region to refrain from any sort of interference, on the other. At the same time, however, the United States is conducting this gunboat diplomacy in the Persian Gulf...

[Kolchanov, interrupting] (?But just consider...)

[Zholkver] ...Even though this region is nevertheless much closer to Soviet borders than it is to U.S. ones.

[Kolchanov] Absolutely correct. That is quite right. Their interest, their official interest, is not, in general, in keeping with their actual intentions. Less than 5 percent of the oil from the Near East forms part of U.S. oil imports which means that this is not their main supply of oil. This means that this is not the essence of U.S. policy nor the essence of the striving to be there. I shall cite THE WASHINGTON POST, which contains what is, in my view, a very interesting item. The newspaper writes fairly openly that the motivating force of the campaign launched around the Iranian missiles in the Straits of Hormuz is the Pentagon, which has long dreamed of obtaining the right to land its aircraft at the Dhahran Air Force base in Saudi Arabia. The fleet of refueling aircraft deployed here will allow U.S. fighters and ground attack aircraft from U.S. carriers to keep their sights trained on the Persian Gulf and an arc as far as Afghanistan.

[Zholkver] But it must be said that the attitude toward that is not unequivocal, even within the United States itself. Is that not so, Yuriy Aleksandrovich?

[Gremitskikh] Indeed. Evidently an important part is played by an internal motive, precisely the one that plays down an internal crisis by blowing up an external crisis: I have in mind Irangate. Generally speaking, from a political point of view that is an old remedy. When there are some sorts of difficulties within a country, then some politicians try to aggravate relations within a country, then some politicians try to aggravate relations with neighboring countries, or stir up and become caught up in some kind of conflict; then all attention is distracted. Possibly a motive like that is very strong in the given case. But if we talk about the Americans, the sober-minded ones, then those Americans, knowing the motives, see what is happening. This is why there are many votes in the House of Deputies [as heard] and the Senate which indicate that the line of policy presently being proposed by the military and by some politicians in the administration is dragging the United States into a dangerous and possibly even very, very dangerous conflict.

[Zholkver] I would also mention that it is precisely the countries of that region -- Asia -- that share our concern about what is happening in the Persian Gulf region.

Worthy of note is a statement by Hayden, the Australian minister of foreign affairs. He stated directly that Australia shares with other members of the international community a feeling of alarm for the security and stability of that region, having in mind the Persian Gulf region. At the same time, that same Hayden, the Australian minister of foreign affairs, welcomed the new Soviet initiative put forward by Comrade Gorbachev in reply to questions put by the Indonesian newspaper. Hayden stressed, in particular, that the elimination of all medium-range missiles, including those in Asia, would help strengthen security in the Asia and Pacific regions.

Summing up our discussion today, one cannot fail to see that in the world, throughout the world, the new political thinking, associated with a realistic view of the situation in our interlinked world, is forging a path for itself. On that we come to the end of our roundtable discussion. Thank you, colleagues, for taking part, and thanks to you, comrades, for your attention.

IZVESTIYA CITES BELONOGOV AT UNSC DEBATE

PM241509 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 1, 4

[Own correspondent V. Soldatov report: "UN Security Council: Cease Fire Immediately"]

[Text] New York -- On Monday a Security Council session on the Iran-Iraq conflict was held at UN Headquarters.

The discussion was preceded by lengthy consultations among the council members. The five permanent members, who, under the UN Charter, are entrusted with special responsibility for questions of maintaining international peace and security, took the initiative in formulating a draft resolution. The draft resolution was supported by all the remaining Security Council members.

During the debate, in which the foreign ministers of France, the FRG, Argentina, Italy, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. secretary of state took part, repeated mention was made of the grave danger associated with the continuation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. This conflict, Zambian representative Peter Zuze stated, poses a grave threat to international peace and security. Every measure must be taken to ensure that it does not go on indefinitely. It is the interests of both Iran and Iraq to end the conflict. The world community also is interested in the ending of hostilities.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar spoke about the need for further cooperation among all the Security Council members and between Iran and Iraq to achieve an immediate cease-fire and to improve the whole situation in the Persian Gulf region.

The Security Council session was addressed by A.M. Belonogov, USSR permanent representative to the United Nations. The Soviet Union, he stated, shares the world community's profound concern at the continuing armed conflict between Iran and Iraq. Our country has a most direct interest in removing a center of tension in the immediate vicinity of its borders.

Our state, the Soviet representative continued, invariably advocates the earliest cessation of the Iran-Iraq armed conflict and the solution of disputes between Iran and Iraq, not on the battlefield but at the political negotiating table. This is our principled position and we have adhered to it since the very beginning of the conflict, regardless of the development of the military actions. In our opinion the entire course of the war shows that reliance on the continuing use of military means will settle nothing. [paragraph continues]

We are convinced that despite the complexity and urgency of the problems that have built up, there are no insurmountable obstacles to the ending of the war and the establishment of peace. The main thing, in our view, is to ensure that the two sides show the political will, prudence, and desire for mutually acceptable accords that take into account the legitimate interests of both Iran and Iraq.

In the work on the Security Council draft resolution, the Soviet representative said, we invariably proceed from the assumption that the continuation of the protracted Iran-Iraq war is leading to a dangerous increase in the tension in the Persian Gulf. As a result, events there recently have been nearing the danger point. The international waters traditionally used by world shipping are being plowed by a sharply increased number of warships, some of which belong to states thousands of kilometers from this region. As is well known, the concentration of outside armed forces in the Persian Gulf is continuing. All this inevitably produces the impression that actions of this kind are dictated not least by a desire on the part of some people to use the current alarming situation in the Persian Gulf to realize their age-old plans of obtaining new aviation and naval strong points.

The UN Security Council unanimously approved the proposed resolution. It requires that as a first step toward the peaceful settlement of the conflict, Iran and Iraq immediately cease all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air and withdraw their troops without delay to the internationally recognized borders. The resolution urges all states to refrain from any actions capable of leading to an escalation and expansion of the conflict.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ENDS GENEVA SESSION

LD241758 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva July 24 TASS -- The 30th session of the Committee on Human Rights ended here today. The session, which passed in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, considered reports by Romania, Iraq, the Congo and Zaire on the fulfillment of their commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The committee's successful work is cogent evidence of how representatives of various law schools from 18 countries, given good will, make common constructive contribution to the development of international cooperation in the humanitarian field with a view to promoting peace and international security, Professor A.P. Movchan, a Soviet expert, told TASS.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries maintain vigorous cooperation with the committee in contrast to the United States and some other states which act in word rather than in deed as human rights advocates.

IOC PRESIDENT IN MOSCOW ON OLYMPIC GAMES IN KOREA

LD261213 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS -- The International Olympic Committee [IOC] is watching the course of the negotiations between the DPRK and South Korea with oriental calm. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch thus urged the journalists who came for the press conference at the USSR Sports Committee to treat the developments with the same calm.

It is precisely the future summer games of 1988 which were in the centre of attention at the press conference. The IOC president, who arrived on a plying visit in the Soviet capital from Ulaanbaatar, stressed that now all countries are preparing to appear in the summer Olympic games.

"The talks between the north and south of Korea were held under the aegis of the IOC, which was sometimes forced to interpret the Olympic Charter for the sake of success of the future games," said Samaranch. He noted that using sports terminology "the ball is now in the DPRK's court."

"The IOC will only have to wait for an answer to its proposals which are unprecedented," the IOC president stressed.

He also pointed out that organizationally there are no longer any problems with the summer Olympic games of 1988: excellent sports facilities have been built in the south, and the north, as Samaranch is convinced, will cope wonderfully with the four sports events offered to DPRK, the more so that Pyongyang has experience of holding big tournaments, including world championships.

Another thing is the political situation in South Korea. Samaranch voiced that the process of democratisation which is under way in the south will be successfully carried on. Yet if complications crop up, the summer games of 1988 will not be held.

"The games will be held in Seoul or nowhere," said IOC president, who thus destroyed the hope of some cities, which calculated that under corresponding circumstances they could offer their services.

Samaranch also assured the audience of a good future for the Olympic movement: There are already three challengers to hosting the Olympic games of 1996 -- Athens, Belgrade and Toronto.

So far the main objective is to ensure the broadest representation at the games of 1988. On September 17, the IOC will start sending out invitations for them, and the national Olympic committees are expected to give an answer to them before January 17.

In that connection the question was asked about the USSR's participation in the games in Seoul. Marat Gramov, chairman of the National Olympic Committee and of the State Sport Committee, gave the following answer: "We will act strictly in conformity with the Olympic Charter, an answer on our participation will be given within the time limit set, now our athletes are preparing for the games."

The IOC president spoke highly of the USSR's role in the international Olympic movement. "I visit Moscow at least once a year," Samaranch said. "I believe this is not so much for one of the most important countries for the IOC."

In September Samaranch is to visit the USSR again to attend a meeting of sports ministers of the socialist countries in Sukhumi.

BATTLESHIP 'MISSOURI' DEPARTS FOR INDIAN OCEAN

LD260606 Moscow TASS in English 0555 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 26 TASS -- On Saturday the Battleship Missouri left from the port of Long Beach in California. According to a spokesman for the U.S. Navy the ship, which has been turned into a real floating fortress, is on her way for a mission in the Indian Ocean, where a U.S. Naval squadron with aircraft carrier Constellation at its head is already plying in direct proximity to the Persian Gulf. According to the CBS Television Company, the battleship may join the U.S. naval squadron which started escorting Kuwaiti tankers flying the U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf.

KORIONOV REJOINDER RAPS REAGAN'S 'CRUDE ATTACKS'

PM271259 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[V. Korionov "Rejoinder": "Thaw Washington-style"]

[Text] It has already become a kind of natural law -- a strange one, of course, from the viewpoint of common sense but, nonetheless, a common natural law -- that as soon as shafts of light appear between the clouds of mistrust among states, speeches start to be made in Washington for the purpose of poisoning the international atmosphere once again and setting back the development of relations among countries. The editorial office's teletype machines have just provided confirmation of this.

Millions of people all over the planet are hailing the new Soviet peace initiative that has opened up a real prospect of freeing both Europe and Asia from an entire class of nuclear missile weapons. Devotees of peace await a businesslike, constructive response from the White House that would advance the cause of achieving mutual understanding among the peoples.

But at this time President Reagan has concentrated attention elsewhere. He made his way... to the Ukrainian Nationalists' Center in Washington. The head of the White House used the platform afforded him to make another provocative speech containing crude attacks on our country. True, at first he declared: "Indications of change are issuing from the Soviet Union, and they are welcome." But the President had nothing else positive to say. There followed the traditional slander of the USSR in the spirit of the irksome fabrications about "Soviet dominion" -- "from the Baltic republics to Bulgaria, from Vietnam to Ethiopia." U.S. mass news organs reported that the original text of the President's speech had contained still more insulting attacks on our country, but they had been removed at the last moment. NBC TV emotively declared: This, you see, is "a sign of a thaw in Soviet-U.S. relations." Neither more nor less!

What remains to be said in this connection? The White House is profoundly mistaken if it believes it can pursue a "double standards" policy with regard to the Soviet Union. The time for verbal tightrope walking is over. The nuclear age imperiously demands concrete, practical actions aimed at achieving mutual understanding and honest, equitable cooperation. And he who continues to brandish the rusty weapons of slander against other countries risks finding himself cast out upon the sidelines of the planet's political life.

REAGAN'S 'ANTI-SOVIET' SPEECH DISTORTS USSR POLICY

LD250943 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] President Reagan has made another anti-Soviet speech, distorting the Soviet policy in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world. In fact, he called for revising political and territorial realities in Europe. The American President also allowed himself statements that posed interference in the Soviet Union's domestic affairs.

Speaking in Washington at a conference on the so-called oppressed nations, he tried to scare the Americans by a communist threat in Latin America. Mr Reagan called for supporting the Nicaraguan contras and promised them new portions of American aid. It's common knowledge that over 40,000 Nicaraguans have perished as a result of actions perpetrated by the contras, at whose hands Washington is waging its undeclared war against Nicaragua.

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY ON ARMS INITIATIVE

LD241756 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin today received the U.S. Ambassador in the USSR John Matlock on the latter's request.

They discussed the present state of relations between the USSR and the United States and the prospects of Soviet-American talks in Geneva in the light of the new Soviet proposal by Mikhail Gorbachev to eliminate medium-range and shorter-range missiles on a global scale.

MURAKHOVSKIY MEETS WITH U.S. BUSINESSMAN

LD242221 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Comrade Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, has received (Chilevic), chairman of the U.S. (Chilevic) Corporaton, at the latter's request. During their talk they discussed several questions concerning cooperation in agroindustrial production.

U.S. CONTINUES TO RESTRICT SOCIALIST REPORTERS

TASS Notes Limitations

LD242031 Moscow TASS in English 2014 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- How can it be that, on the one hand, the U.S. officials talk everywhere about a "free flow of information" while, on the other hand, they hamper normal work of journalists. This question was posed by journalists in Washington to State Department spokesman Charles Redman in connection with the infringement in the USA of professional rights of correspondents from the USSR and other Warsaw Treaty countries. Only a few of them have access to press conferences in the White House, and starting from June 1, the possibilities for attending news conferences in the U.S. Department of State have been drastically curtailed.

The reaction from those present showed that the journalists have not received satisfactory answers from Charles Redman. Commenting on this situation, first deputy chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Boris Pyadyshev told this TASS correspondent:

"We, certainly, are not satisfied with the answers either. It is emphasized in the Helsinki Final Act that the participating countries, striving to improve the conditions of journalists' work bear in mind 'to increase the opportunities for journalists of the participating states to communicate personally with their sources, including organisations and official institutions'".

They in the State Department act in the opposite way: Possibilities for professional activity of journalists from socialist countries are being curtailed.

One cannot but notice an obvious discrepancy in the explanations of the State Department spokesman. He told journalists that he was unaware about any Soviet protests over the introduction of new restrictions on attendance of news conferences. It should be noted that the official protest in this connection was lodged by a representative of the USSR Embassy with Redman personally on July 1.

Attempts are made to explain restrictions to the access to premises for the press by considerations of "national security". And now correspondents are escorted to briefings and press conferences in the State Department just as tankers in the Persian Gulf. There is nothing of the kind in the Moscow press centre. American journalists freely attend all the functions. After all they in the State Department would not want the American correspondents have doors shut in their face.

Correspondent Reports Conditions

LD252343 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Video report on socialist journalists in the United States, by correspondent Vadim Lobachenko; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Since January this year, the Foreign Missions Office of the U.S. State Department is supposed to have been helping journalists from socialist countries.

[Lobachenko] This is a special kind of help. First of all, you have to forget about reporting on urgent news stories outside New York and Washington. To go on trips to other areas of the country, you need not only send the usual (?notification) to the State Department, you must also submit a declaration to the Foreign Missions Office in New York. If we used to order tickets and book hotels before for ourselves, it was a bit cheaper and more convenient; now they book them for us, which is both more expensive and very inconvenient. More than that, we are obliged to submit the names of the Americans we want to meet on our trips.

These Americans have told me about the conversations they have: Why are you meeting and helping Soviet journalists? What for? In the United States today such conversations have a certain effect on many people. They think: Is it really worth the extra difficulties and problems?

The Soviet journalists working here in the United States have more or less gotten used to accepting as a necessary evil [obychnoye zlo] the fact that all our telephone calls are noted and recorded, that our cars and apartments are stuffed with bugs and eavesdropping equipment. But what we cannot get used to and cannot agree to is the current attempt by the authorities to try to limit de facto our trips around the country and our contacts with Americans, which are so necessary to us as journalists. Nor can we accept the authorities' attempts to cut off the access of Soviet journalists and journalists from other socialist countries to press briefings, and press conferences in the State Department and White House, which is a flagrant violation of our rights as journalists and of the Helsinki Final Act. [passage omitted]

KORIONOV COMMENTS ON U.S. VIEW OF SOVIET OPENNESS

PM240953 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[Political observer Vitality Korionov article: "Openness Is the Road to Trust"]

[Text] It can now be claimed quite definitely that restructuring in the Soviet Union is becoming part of the life of the modern world as a political factor of prime importance.

Life is making statesmen in the Western countries and their influential political circles study more and more seriously the processes taking place in the Soviet Union and their possible international consequences. Take just one example: The Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe held special hearings on the subject "Consequences of the Openness Policy for the Countries of Eastern Europe." R. Garthoff, former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria, stated in his speech: "Significant changes are now taking place, and not only in the Soviet Union, but in the countries of Eastern Europe, too. We cannot predict the final result of this process, but we should expect changes to take place, and they will affect not only the Eastern European countries' relationship with the USSR, but also their relationship with West Europe and the United States, too." Garthoff concluded that a "more flexible policy" is now required from the United States.

Indeed, life persistently demands that the United States pursue a course free of complexes and of the image of the Soviet Union as the enemy, and demands the ability to espouse new political thinking. Not for nothing are the most farsighted figures in the NATO countries persistently noting that what is called the "Gorbachev phenomenon" in the West gives mankind a historic opportunity which, in the nuclear missile age, it would be a fatal mistake not to grasp.

Mankind needs not only to throw off the nuclear fetters. It is vitally interested in freeing itself from the yoke of fear and destroying the walls of distrust and enmity among the peoples -- walls which were so zealously erected by the inspirers of the "cold war," anti-Soviets, and anticommunists.

The openness being asserted in Soviet society is a factor that could play a great role in resolving this task. For decades reactionary propaganda has sown the myth of a "closed society" in the USSR along with the myth of the "Soviet military threat." Another time has now arrived. [paragraph continues]

Anyone can see that legality is being strengthened in the Soviet Union, a new moral atmosphere is being asserted, the utmost openness is being ensured in the activity of state and public organizations, the course of implacability toward violations of laws or moral norms and public exposure of dishonesty, deceit, and parasitism is being implemented, and those who have distorted and flouted socialist principles are being brought to account. This line has not been imposed on us by someone from outside, it is a manifestation of the natural laws of our life.

But this cannot fail to have a beneficial effect on the political climate in the international arena. New opportunities are opening up for bringing countries and peoples closer together, eliminating past fears, and establishing trust. Where there is trust there will also be stable relations. This means that the chances of mankind's survival are increasing.

It would seem that those politicians in the West who claim that they too favor trust and cooperation ought to welcome this development of events. But no. These gentlemen have undergone a strange metamorphosis. They are starting to see openness in the USSR as a threat to themselves.

Thus, the leaders of the U.S. news and propaganda complex are sounding the alarm. Talking about us, they now state: "They are propagandizing the idea of 'openness' and progress along the road of improving conditions on the world. They have won the attention of the entire world, particularly at the front line of the East-West conflict."

Just what is it that worries the authors of such allegations? I think that the point here is not just that the stereotypes with whose help reactionary forces have long managed to keep millions of people in an atmosphere of anti-Soviet stupor are being destroyed. I think the point is also that the spotlight of openness on the USSR is at the same time illuminating the genuine state of affairs with regard to openness on capitalist society. And this state of affairs is, to put it bluntly, unseemly.

At first glance, such an allegation might seem paradoxical to some people. Very much so. After all, the United States has a powerful mass media apparatus. Washington politicians often claim that the very existence of such an apparatus testifies to the fact that the United States is an open society. But this is no more than an optical illusion.

It is common knowledge that with few exceptions the mass media in the United States belong to big business or are reliably controlled by them. "The U.S. newspaper industry," Charles Perlick, president of the American Newspaper Guild, stated, "has always been a business for financial sharks." Probably the only new point now is that not only the press but television and radio stations and movie studios are being more and more openly trampled underfoot by giant corporations very closely linked with the Pentagon. What question can there be of genuine openness in such a situation?

Actually, the United States is gradually turning into a closed society whose ruling forces are cunningly and effectively isolating people from objective information and imposing on them a viewpoint that suits the powers that be. And this is characteristic not only of the United States.

"A giant spider's web with almost invisible threads," Claude Julien wrote in the May edition of the French magazine LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, "enmeshes the citizens of the Western democratic states. They think they are free. They do not know that they have become slaves to ideas, thoughts, and concepts administered to their souls a drop at a time by a fiendishly skillful expert who has been working doggedly for decades and who always has various tricks and new methods in reserve."

It is an irony of fate that at the very time the USSR has started to extensively launch the process of openness and democratization, the main capitalist country has presented the world with a most graphic example of how shamelessly it flouts the most elementary norms of truth and morality. I am referring to the notorious "Irangate."

It should be remembered that in his June 1982 speech to the British Parliament, proclaiming a "program of democracy and public diplomacy," the U.S. President stated that this public diplomacy was aimed at "promoting the development of the infrastructure of democracy." The President was moved to describe his new brainchild as a "delicate flower of democracy." But this "flower" turned out to be a weed. Shortly after, a decision was taken within the administration that this new program should also have a component that would be carefully hidden from people's gaze. And now a stunned America has been hearing more and more evidence that in the recesses of the White House within the National Security Council a "secret government" operated with no regard for the law, Congress, or public opinion. A graphic example of Washington-style openness!

And are not the duplicitous White House maneuvers around the "strategic defense initiative" typical of this kind of "openness"? Only the naive would believe the assurances that putting nuclear weapons into space could "save mankind from the threat of a nuclear missile strike."

The consistently peace-loving course of the CPSU and the Soviet state, whose organic components are openness and democratization, undermines the foundations of anti-Sovietism and anticommunism. Hence the increasing attempts by the enemies of socialism to cast aspersions on the revolutionary changes taking place in our country. The "arguments" of these people, however, are so flimsy that some time ago a typical admission even appeared in the Paris-published INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, which can in no way be suspected of anti-Americanism.

The claims that "nothing is changing" in the USSR, the newspaper noted, are influenced by a "profoundly American factor -- a kind of national smugness." An important role, the newspaper continued, is also played by those U.S. institutions and organizations which for years have "zealously propagandized the popular image of the Soviet Union as an unchanging country incapable of change and which existed for that purpose. These include the military-industrial complex, the legions of professional proponents of the cold war, self-styled national security specialists, and other interested parties. Any admission that the Soviet system is improving threatens their political, economic, and ideological prosperity." And even if radical changes take place in the USSR, "they will always find other excuses," the author of the article concluded.

The truth about the changes in the Soviet Union and our country's tireless efforts to avert the threat of nuclear war have become more and more widely known to people in the Western countries, including the United States. The masters of the state propaganda complex are concerned. The leaders of the U.S. Information Agency announced that in conection with the "rise in Soviet prestige among the foreign public" it is embarking on the implementation of a "wide-ranging propaganda campaign aimed at boosting U.S. prestige. [paragraph continues]

But however much the anti-Soviet propaganda machine is cranked up, millions more people around the world are being convinced that the fundamental changes in the Soviet Union are having a profound impact on the course of international events for the good of the cause of universal peace and mankind's progress. Openness raises the level of trust in international affairs, and the strengthening of trust is a necessary prerequisite for international detente.

YAKOVLEV RECEIVES CANADIAN POLITICIAN 24 JULY

LD241834 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received Svend Robinson, a prominent Canadian politician and deputy of Canada's federal parliament from the New Democratic Party.

They discussed some urgent questions of Soviet-Canadian and international relations, as well as cooperation in the humanitarian field.

VOA PRONOUNCEMENT ON USSR-PRC RELATIONS DERIDED

PM090745 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 8 Jul 87 p 3

[A. Zhemchugov article: "The Truth Will Out" under the rubric "Pertinent Remarks"]

[Text] It is hardly necessary to enlarge on the subject of the role played in international life by the Soviet Union and China. No less obvious is the fact that universal peace and stability, people's progress and well-being benefit from the fact that the two great neighbors approach a whole series of today's key problems from the same key standpoints. In particular, the two states have voluntarily pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Both are also actively opposed to the militarization of space.

Numerous facts also show that the world public reacts positively to the process -- gathering momentum -- of expanding and deepening bilateral relations between the biggest socialist countries and rightly links it with hopes of eliminating the threat of man's nuclear self-destruction, curbing the arms race, and establishing a new economic order on earth.

However, there are also people who clearly do not relish good-neighborly relations between the USSR and China. You do not have to look for examples.

During the current carefully orchestrated hue and cry in the United States, Western Europe, and Japan over medium-range missiles in Asia, the theory that "the USSR needs medium-range nuclear means which would create a direct threat to China" has been craftily put forward. With certain variations, this theory is being exaggerated in statements by official, even high-ranking representatives of Western ruling circles, and actively exploited by the mass media. In particular, "Voice of America" informed the world recently, citing its Beijing correspondent Hopkins, that the recent underground nuclear test in China "was part of a program to modernize its nuclear means" and that "the PRC is at present developing new missiles for submarines and is also improving its land-based long-range missiles delivery vehicles." All this, according to the "Voice of America" story, is happening because "China is a long way behind the Soviet Union militarily and the USSR is the state with which the PRC is most likely to engage in nuclear war."

Can you see how the circuit along which a lie travels closes? At one end the fabricated theory is insinuated that the Russians supposedly intend to keep China constantly under their beady nuclear eye, which is why they need medium-range missiles. And, at the other end of the circuit, the idea is inferred that the Chinese are also apparently not sitting idly by but are quietly making preparations in case of nuclear war with their northern neighbor.

"The truth will out," as they say. This is indeed so. The good-neighborly, friendly relations between the Soviet Union and China are characterized by a clearly pronounced trend toward expansion and intensification despite the vain attempts of their enemies. The visit to China by a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' Legislative Proposals Commissions led by G.P. Razumovskiy, chairman of the Soviet of the Union Legislative Proposals Commission and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, serves as further confirmation of this. The entire course of the visit completely overturns any fabrications by those who wish Soviet-Chinese good-neighborliness ill. The conversations and meetings in Beijing have unambiguously confirmed the sides' mutual interest in further developing Soviet-Chinese ties and contacts in various spheres.

OLYMPIC INSPECTION GROUP ARRIVES IN SEOUL

SK270151 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Seoul, July 27 (YONHAP) -- A nine-member Soviet sports delegation, led by the vice president of the Soviet Olympic Committee, Anatoliy Kolessov, arrived here Sunday afternoon for a six-day visit.

During their stay in Seoul, the Soviet sports officials are scheduled to meet with leading Korean sports officials to discuss the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Among the Korean officials will be Pak Se-chik, president of the Seoul Olympic organizing committee, Kim Un-yong, an International Olympic Committee member, and Kim Chong-ha, president of the Korean Olympic Committee.

The Soviet delegates will also conduct an inspection tour of the Olympic park and other sports facilities.

The delegation is scheduled to leave Korea Aug. 1.

PRAVDA SUPPORTS DPRK CALL FOR NUCLEAR-FREE KOREA

PM220951 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[Pavel Senchuk "Comentator's Column": "Removing the Nuclear Splinter"]

[Text] Let us imagine that all the initiatives to create nuclear-free zones are crowned with success. Where then would those in the Pentagon who love to dump nuclear "toys" in other people's houses find to leave their lethal load?

This is no idle question. Let it suffice to recall those zones already in existence on Earth, and also the proposals to proclaim nuclear-free zones in Africa, the Near East, and Southeast Asia. Many of them have been discussed at UN General Assembly sessions and other international forums. Moreover, particular attention has been drawn to initiatives of this kind in regions where the situation is extremely tense. The Korean peninsula is indisputably among the latter.

That is why the recently published DPRK Foreign Ministry statement concerning the creation of a nuclear-free peace zone on the Korean peninsula received such broad support from the peace-loving public in various countries.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry statement expresses well-founded alarm. It points directly to the threat of war inherent in the supercharged U.S. militarist preparations in South Korea. At present more than 1,000 units of various types of nuclear weapons are deployed in the south of the peninsula, and nuclear dumps are being built everywhere. F-4 fighter-bombers and nuclear weapons carriers are stationed there.

I would remind readers that as long as a year ago the DPRK Government, on a unilateral basis, essentially proclaimed the north of Korea free of nuclear weapons and proposed securing nonnuclear status for the entire Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, the U.S.-South Korean side ignored this initiative and refused to remove the nuclear splinter from the peninsula's body.

Yet it is surely obvious that to declare the Korean peninsula a nuclear weapon-free zone would above all facilitate the removal of one of the main causes of tension in Korea and promote the normalization of the overall situation on the peninsula. It would create conditions favorable for holding a comprehensive dialogue between North and South, as the DPRK leadership has repeatedly suggested.

The significance of the DPRK initiative, as I understand it, goes far beyond the limits of the Korean peninsula. If a nuclear-free zone were successfully created there, it would favorably affect the entire military-political climate in the Far East and the nuclear weapon nonproliferation regime.

I would like to hope that Washington and Seoul will still heed the voice of reason.

TOSHIBA REFUSES PARTICIPATION IN SDI

LD240452 Moscow TASS in English 0439 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tokyo July 24 TASS -- The Japanese Toshiba concern has decided not to take part in the implementation of the notorious American "Star Wars" programme.

Reporting this, KYODO Tsushin Agency refers to some "diplomatic problems" that one of the leading high-technology manufacturers in Japan and in the entire capitalist world, refuses to take part in SDI projects because of the campaign of hounding started against it by Washington with the support of official Tokyo. According to the terms of the deal between Tokyo and Washington Japanese companies are practically denied the right to use the results of joint research for commercial purposes under the pretext of "safeguarding the security" of the United States.

TOKYO 'WHIPPING UP ANTISOCIALIST HYSTERIA' OVER TOSHIBA

LD252316 Moscow TASS in English 2250 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Tokyo July 25 TASS -- The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry has drafted a bill of amendments to the law on control over currency exchange and foreign trade in effect in Japan.

The ministry's statement says that this measure aims at preventing the leakage of high technology to socialist countries, which in the opinion of the ministry, can create the threat to international peace and security.

The pointed harassment of the firm "Toshiba Kikai" for its ties with the USSR, that is conducted by the Japanese ruling quarters at the U.S. bidding, has already sparked off heavy discontent on the part of Japan's business community. However, Tokyo goes ahead with whipping up anti-socialist hysteria, even to the detriment of the interests of the United States, its major trading partner, away from plans to effect new protectionist measures of the anti-Japanese nature.

OVCHINNIKOV DEPLORES JAPANESE SDI INVOLVEMENT

PM241455 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column": 'Fifth Accomplice" by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov]

[Text] Defense Secretary Weinberger and Japanese Ambassador to the United States Matsunaga have signed an intergovernmental agreement in Washington on Japan's participation in the American "Star Wars" program. Thus, the Land of the Rising Sun is officially becoming the fifth U.S. accomplice in the militarization of space after Britain, the FRG, Italy, and Israel.

Although Nakasone assured Reagan as much as 2 and 1/2 years ago that he regarded SDI "with understanding," for a long time Tokyo did not venture openly to subscribe to that program because participation in the development [razrabotka] of space strike arms runs counter to the Constitution (under which the Japanese people renounced the use of military force for all time), the "three nonnuclear principles" (not to produce, acquire, or station nuclear weapons in their country), and also the parliamentary resolution on exploring and opening up sapce exclusively for peaceful purposes. However, precisely for the aforesaid reasons Washington was particularly interested in persuading Tokyo to participate in its schemes. Since, it was said, even Japan with its "nuclear allergy" does not disdain to participate in SDI, what doubts can there be about the "defensive" nature of this program? Further, the U.S. creators of space arms are eager to secure the services of Japan's scientific and technical potential, particularly its achievements in electronics, laser equipment, and fiber optics. Finally, people across the ocean reckon that Japan's involvement in SDI will make it possible finally to cancel out the "three nonnuclear principles" and site on Japanese territory the communications, tracking, and guidance facilities necessary for combat operations in space.

The Japanese Government gave its consent to participate in the American "Star Wars" program as long ago as last September. However, the elaboration of the specific terms for this dragged on for an entire 10 months. Tokyo spent a long time trying in vain to secure what had been denied the other SDI participants: the right to use for commercial purposes the research and development [razrabotki] which the partners will carry out within the framework of the American program. The anti-Soviet hysteria over the notorious "Toshiba Kikai affair" confirmed the suspicions of Japanese employers that the Americans will monopolize the results of the work on the pretext of "preserving secrecy."

The groundlessness of the arguments that participation in the "Star Wars" program will supposedly accelerate scientific and technical progress and prevent the country from lagging behind American and West European competitors has been exposed. Japan's postwar history attests to the exact opposite: The country's scientific potential develops far more efficiently if not linked to military ends.

The agreement signed in Washington attests to Japan's further involvement in U.S. military-strategic plans and runs counter to statements by official Tokyo circles of their readiness to help strengthen peace and reduce international tension.

INDONESIAN MINISTER WELCOMES GORBACHEV PROPOSALS

LD241422 Moscow TASS in English 1308 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Jakarta July 24 TASS -- "Indonesia welcomes the peace proposals by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev which were put forward in an interview to the newspaper MERDEKA," said today Indonesia's Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, answering a question of a TASS correspondent. We approve of any actions aimed at disarmament, he underlined.

The interview to the newspaper MERDEKA is a logical continuation of the Soviet leader's Vladivostok speech, following which the USSR undertook a number of steps reaffirming the striving to have good relations with Asian states, the minister said. This is particularly clear in questing for solution of the Afghan issue.

Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said that an end to the arms race met the interests of all peoples of the world. The means to be released as a result could be used to build roads, schools, to make blossoming orchards out of deserts, he underlined.

PRK'S HENG SAMRIN STOPS OVER EN ROUTE TO POLAND

PM241227 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "En Route For Poland"]

[Text] A PRK party and state delegation headed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, made a stopover in Moscow 23 July on its way to Poland for an official friendly visit.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by B. Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other officials, as well as by Leng Peng Long [name as published], PRK charge d'affaires in the USSR.

The delegation left Moscow the same day.

Meets Medvedev on Return

LD251856 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today, a party and government delegation from the People's Republic of Kampuchea, headed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the republic's Council of State, arrived in Moscow en route for home from Moscow, having completed its official friendly visit to Poland. At the airport the delegation was met by Comrade Medvedev and other officials.

SOVIET UNION NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE

PM230919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 87 Second Edition p 8

[Unattributed "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Anatoliy Matveyevich Dryukov USSR ambassador extradordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Singapore.

FISHERIES MINISTER EXPLAINS SOUTH PACIFIC POLICY

LD161322 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS -- Guided by economic interests, the Soviet Union will continue developing mutually beneficial cooperation in fisheries with other countries, including tiny insular states, a TASS correspondent has been told by chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Fisheries of the USSR, Vyacheslav Zilanov.

He commented on Western press reports in which various fabrications were made on "political pressure" and "strategic" aims of the USSR in carrying out fishing in South Pacific. Such pronouncements have the aim to discredit activities of the Soviet fishing fleet and are frequently inspired by our rivals, said Vyacheslav Zilanov.

Passions are still being warmed up around the fishing agreement which was signed with Vanuatu in January this year. In accordance with the agreement, Soviet ships are given the right of fishing, for a certain compensation, in the economic zone of those islands. It also envisages a number of services needed to carry it out -- fuel and food supplies.

Soviet ships are not working now in the area of those islands since no considerable tunny shoals have been discovered there. Fishing is conducted in the high seas away from Vanuatu. But if before the term of the agreement expires fishing off these islands becomes expedient, Soviet fishermen will naturally return there. The Soviet Union earlier had such accords with Kiribati but they were not extended since the sides did not come to mutually acceptable commercial terms.

Soviet fishery organisations are conducting negotiations also with other insular states. An agreement has recently been concluded on terms of Soviet vessels' fishing in the economic zone of the Seychelles islands for a period of one year, Vyacheslav Zilanov said.

Such agreements are broadly practiced by many countries with a well-developed fishing fleet. The United States, for instance, kindling the hullabaloo over activities of the Soviet fishing fleet, is itself actively engaged in tunny fishing in South Pacific. This year the United States concluded a multilateral agreement with 14 states of that region.

U.S. GULF CONVOY MISHAP COULD LEAD TO 'EXPLOSION'

LD242359 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Leonid Rassadin reports from Cairo:

[Rassadin] The situation in the Persian Gulf is becoming more and more inflamed. [passage omitted] I will not overly dramatize that which has happened. Other foreign ships have also struck mines in the Persian Gulf, however, today's regretable incident with the tanker Bridgeton is another matter completely. It was escorted by three U.S. military ships which were in a state of increased combat readiness. The U.S. carrier-based aircraft carried out uninterrupted surveillance flights from the aircraft carrier Constellation. In this operation, codenamed "Earnest Will", the whole U.S. naval armada is involved, amounting to no less than 16 ships equipped with the most modern missiles. It is difficult even to imagine what would happen if one of those military ships, for example, struck a mine, or if an accident occured with a U.S. Air Force plane. The Pentagon has given orders to its forces in the Persian Gulf to immediately respond with retaliatory fire to any military attack. Who could guarantee that a U.S. commander on the spot would make the wrong decision, which could lead to the tragedy of a new and very dangerous explosion in the region of the Near and the Middle East.

NOMAD'S JIRGAH BACKS DRA RECONCILIATION POLICY

PM221125 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by IZVESTIYA special correspondent V. Kukushkin: "Following the Nomads' Jirgah"]

[Text] The first all-Afghan Jirgah of nomad tribes was held in Kabul at the beginning of July. More than 600 leaders, elders, and religious figures discussed the vital problems of nomad life in conditions of national reconciliation. The Jirgah approved the DRA Government's foreign and domestic polilcy and called for an active struggle for peace and social justice on Afghan soil.

IZVESTIYA special correspondent V. Kukushkin met in Kabul with several Jirgah participants.

"The meeting was a significant event for us, evidence of our full participation in the country's life," Hajji Akhtar Mokhammed [name as transliterated], leader of one of the tribes, said. "In fact, prior to the April revolution we were not regarded as human beings, although, as is known, 1 in 10 Afghans is a nomad.

"The undeclared war which the dushmans and their patrons, the foreign imperialists, are waging against the people's power has brought us much grief. Hostilities in the vicinity of our encampments have killed livestock and curtailed trade, and people have been living in constant anxiety about the future. Therefore we wholeheartedly welcomed the policy of national reconciliation announced by the Afghan Government.

"Everyone in the world needs peace. We nomads made it clear at the Jirgah that we will make every effort to support our government's peace-loving course."

"In his speech to the Jirgah participants Comrade Najib noted that nomads have defended their country's borders against enemies on more than one occasion," Hajji Lol Mukhammad [name as published], leader of a nomad tribe from the Iranian border area, said. "At the Jirgah we decided not to allow caravans carrying weapons and ammunition through our mountains and through our encampments. It will be our way of helping the people's power and backing the national reconciliation policy.

"In Afghanistan they say that true words are stronger than weapons. All that we have learned and seen in Kabul will be interesting for all our fellow tribesmen.

"In Kabul we set up a nomad tribes' Jirgah Central Council. It will keep in constant contact with the government and join it in tackling all the vital problems. For the first time we will have representatives on the Revolutionary Council -- the country's supreme organ of state power."

"It should be said that the government has in no way interfered in the Jirgah's work and that all our decisions have been taken quite independently. We entirely agree with the government," remarked Hajji Nur Mukhammad [name as published], leader of a Pushtun tribe which is in the Ghazni area at the moment, "that any interference by the imperialist powers in Afghanistan's internal affairs must be halted immediately and completely. Let us have no more attempts to set Afghans against one another."

DRA DENIES ZIAUL HAQ'S CHARGE OF TERRORISM

PM230821 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Slanderous Fabrications Rejected"]

[Text] Kabul, 17 Jul -- A DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman has decisively rejected Pakistani President Ziaul Haq's accusations against Afghanistan in connection with the recent terrorist acts in the city of Karachi. In a statement issued to BAKHTAR, he notes that Ziaul Haq has tried to link the explosions in Pakistan's biggest city with "Afghan government activity" and "Pakistani aid for Afghan refugees." The aims of these fabrications are clear: By slandering the DRA, Islamabad's military regime is trying to distract the Pakistani people's attention from the real causes of the crisis situation in the country. Meanwhile it is well known that the increased tension in many Pakistani cities, including Lahore and Karachi, is the result of intercommunal discord and Ziaul Haq's antinational policy as a whole.

The Islamabad regime's hostile, discriminatory actions have led to the crisis getting out of control, the Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out. The present serious situation is the result of a buildup of contradictions in Pakistani society and social problems which are reflected in disorders, strikes, and demonstrations. However, terrorism in Pakistan and groundless accusations made by Islamabad against the DRA are nothing new. What is regrettable is that this time the Pakistani president himself has been the one to attack the DRA. But even with the help of statements like these, he will not succeed in hiding the truth that Afghanistan is striving for peace and the lessening of tension in the region and throughout the world.

For 9 years, the statement goes on to emphasize, the Afghan people have witnessed the murders of women and children, fire and destruction, attacks on civilian aircraft, and explosions on highways, on city transport, and at bazaars -- all inspired by the Islamabad regime. The Afghan people, who are themselves the object of terrorist activity by imperialist, reactionary forces, express their deep condolences to their Pakistani brothers regarding the explosions which have claimed many victims.

The DRA, the Foreign Ministry spokesman continued, recently began a new stage in its development, embarking on the implementation of important measures aimed at restoring national unity and peace. This policy has the aim of ending the war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

In his speech, Ziaul Haq tried to prove that Islamabad "is paying for keeping Afghan refugees on Pakistani territory" and is itself becoming their "victim." Meanwhile, the Afghan refugees are the victims of the policy pursued by a regime that is a stooge of American imperialism, the statement notes. The Islamabad regime throws refugees into jails and camps or uses them as instruments for implementing its aggressive policy and as a means of obtaining financial aid. There would be no need to "pay for keeping the refugees" if they were allowed to return home!

The DRA, the statement stresses, firmly rejects the Pakistani president's fabrications and regards them as a new attempt to sabotage the process of negotiating a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan and normalizing the situation in the region.

ISRAEL URGED TO ACCEPT DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS

TA261926 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1630 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In TIME magazine's latest edition, Moscow correspondent Strobe Talbot writes that the Kremlin is making disarmament proposals at such a speed that the White House simply has no time to reject them. And indeed, while the West is still digesting the Soviet proposals for medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet leadership has come up with another initiative about dismantling the medium-and short-range missiles of both superpowers in Asia and the Pacific Ocean basin.

It is worth noting that the Soviet proposals for medium-range missiles in Europe have gained no response from the Israeli top ranks, although Jerusalem regards Israel as a Middle Eastern country; that is, closer to Europe than to the Far East. But now, when the reference is directly to Asia and the Middle East is an integral part of it, now it is no longer possible to ignore the initiatives the Soviet Union is raising. This is because these initiatives have a direct bearing on the Jewish state's security problems.

First, these initiatives open the way to dismantling weapons of mass destruction that are jeopardizing the Middle East, as they are all the other parts of the world. After all, if the West causes a war, it is not inconceivable that it will also spill over to the Middle East, and then medium-range missiles will be used against it. Therefore dismantling the medium- and short-range missiles would increase the security of the nations of Asia, and the areas of tension first and foremost.

Second, after all, Israel is the strategic ally of the United States. It hosts U.S. military stores, U.S. ships, and so on, and it is apparently very worthwhile for it also to think about a detente between the two great powers. From this aspect, disarming medium-range missiles in Asia would constitute a definite move toward improving the atmosphere in the world, and consequently would also improve Israel's status as the ally of one of the powers. These two factors, it seems, are in themselves sufficient to make a correct assessment of the significance of the new Soviet initiative regarding Israel.

But there is another factor, no less important, which is connected with fears of the deployment of Soviet missiles in Arab countries bordering Israel. Back in 1981 there were many people in the Israeli establishment who thought that SS-20 missiles might be deployed in Syria. They regarded this as a great danger to Israel's security. Now some people are afraid of the deployment of SS-23 missiles. The Soviet Union of course, in accordance with its bilateral agreements, is entitled to station components that are defensive in nature. However, we so not intend to do this, to violate the military balance in that area; we have no plans to deploy such things as medium-range or operational missiles [word indistinct] in such sensitive areas as the Middle East.

It is known that over the past few years our policy has been marked by a search for ways to dissipate the tension in various areas, to eliminate nuclear confrontation. But in any event, if an agreement on the matter is signed between the Soviet Union and the United States, Israel will no longer have any reason to fear that one day Soviet missiles will be deployed in Asia, including in Arab countries. And if we take all these factors into account, it is apparently worth asking whether the Israeli establishment really does value the Soviet initiative as it should.

CLAIMS OF THREAT TO EASTERN ANATOLIA RIDICULED

PM241457 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jul 87 p 4

[S. Tarasov article under the rubric "How Provocations Are Made": "'The Russians Are Coming' Again"]

[Text] The latest anti-Soviet "canard" has been cooked up in the U.S. propaganda kitchen. This time it was released by AP and meant for the West European and primarily Turkish public. It appears, according to the AP report, that the Soviet Union has started concentrating military subunits withdrawn from Afghanistan along... the Turkish border. Why those from Afghanistan? Simply because, the news agency claims, the Soviet troops, experienced in conducting combat operations in the DRA's complex climatic and natural conditions, are now capable of operating "effectively" under similar conditions in eastern Anatolia. And the same news agency has no doubts that the Soviet Union will invade there for sure.

The constant intimidation of Turkey using the mythical "Soviet threat" is now a matter of routine for transatlantic circles striving to harness that country even more firmly to their military-strategic chariot.

This time, however, AP had a more distant target in sight. The point is that some people in Washington, and even in some other Western capitals, are getting worried about the growing popularity of the policy of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan leadership. Recently the Turkish press has been carrying increasing numbers of objective reports on Afghanistan. Aychan Giritoglu [name as published], correspondent of the Turkish political weekly NOKTA, recently visited Kabul. He traveled in the country and had meetings with representatives of the Afghan Government. On his return to Turkey the journalist published truthful reportage on Afghanistan. Aychan Giritoglu writes, for example, that, despite certain complications, support for the policy of national reconcilition among the Afghan people is growing day by day. Tens of thousands of refugees are coming back to the country, he notes, and dozens of armed gangs are coming down from the mountains and asking the Afghan Government to give them a chance to expiate their guilt through peaceful labor.

The Afghan question would have been solved a long time ago, the Turkish journalist concludes, had it not been for the support given to the dushmans by the United States and other countries. The essence of this issue does not boil down to just the withdrawal of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops from Afghanistan but centers around the cessation of interference in that country's internal affairs by the "patrons" of the counterrevolutionary forces.

The correspondent of the weekly NOKTA was the first Turkish journalist to visit Afghanistan legally. His reportage is a remarkable event which demolishes the distorted impressions about the situation in that country, impressions which have been implanted for a long time now by Western, and primarily U.S., propaganda centers. This is why this publication generated great interest among the Turkish public and this, in its turn, generated a corresponding reaction by United States. The result was the launching of the "canard": Even if the Russians leave Afghanistan, Turkey ought not to rejoice because the "Afghan subunits" will certainly enter its territory in eastern Anatolia.

It is noteworthy that while AP was previously telling the whole world that the Russians had no intention of leaving Afghanistan and were almost ready to turn it into their "16th republic," now, as we can see, it is -- without even the tiniest pang of conscience -- threatening countries in the Near and Middle East with subunits from the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops that have returned from the DRA. Meanwhile, increasingly broad circles of the public in Turkey and other countries in the region have started to objectively assess the processes occurring in Afghanistan and are calling for this question to be settled with primary consideration given to the Afghan people's interests.

This is what has caused the swelling of provocative noises like the AP "canard" across the ocean, aimed at preventing th untying of the Afghan "knot" and at locking the peaceful settlement of Afghanistan's problem, which in itself indicates the real goals pursued by those who, while shedding crocodile tears about the Afghan people's "fate," are arming gangster formations to engage in terrorism on Afghan soil.

NEW INDIAN PRESIDENT 'IN LINE' WITH CURRENT POLICY

PM201421 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[Veniamin Shurygin "Commentator's Column": "India: New President"]

[Text] Presidential elections are a traditionally important event in India's political life. Even though the president is not given the sort of role in the republic's state life that is played by, say, the U.S. President, Indians attach great importance to the head of state's personality and his ability to embody the unity of the country in all its diversity.

The president's character is also very important to the activity of the prime minister and the entire government. After all, it was dissension over the candidates for the post that led to a split in the ruling INC [Indian National Congress] party in 1969. It was no accident that during the recent exacerbation of the situation in India the right-wing opposition tried in every possible way to set former president Zail Singh at odds with Rajiv Gandhi and to prompt him to take steps contravening the provisions of the constitution.

Although on the eve of the elections most Indian newspapers took the view that the ruling party's candidate had the better chance, it could not be said until the very last minute that the election was decided. Opposition forces were also at work recruiting turncoats from within the Congress-I party. That is why Ramaswamy Venkataraman's victory shows that in general the ruling party leadership managed to maintain unity in its ranks.

For the Congress-I the victory is very important, since it was won after a series of failures. This spring and summer the party had been defeated in legislative elections in the states of West Bengal, Kerala, and Haryana.

The presidential elections were held in a complex domestic political situation, when the forces of foreign and domestic reaction were launching a frontal attack on the government, exploiting the dissatisfaction triggered by the terrorist activity in the states of Punjab and Haryana -- activity which has cost many lives. The authorities took measures to safeguard law and order. However, the separatist raids continue. The new president along with the government will have to do a great deal of work to strengthen national unity.

India's current president is an experienced statesman respected within his country and abroad. His way of thinking -- as attested by his political biography and by the books he has written -- is in line with current Indian domestic and foreign policy. That is why it is to be hoped that R. Venkataraman's election as president will promote the consistant implementation of this course.

SRI LANKAN PREMIER MAKES MOSCOW STOPOVER

PM211533 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Moscow Stopover"]

[Text] Sri Lankan Prime Minister R. Premadasa made a short stopover in Moscow 17 July. He was met and seen off at the airport by V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, other officials, and N. Kanakaratne, Sri Lankan ambassador to the USSR.

V.K. Gusev and R. Premadasa had a friendly talk.

SOVIET WARSHIPS END FRIENDLY VISIT TO GDYNIA

PM271030 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] Warsaw, 24 Jul -- A detachment of Soviet warships consisting of the missile cruiser Gronznyy and the large antisubmarine ship Slavnyy, under the flag of Admiral V.P. Ivanov, commander of the Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet, has left the port of Gdynia. The detachment was in Poland on an official friendly visit.

POLISH CONSULATE OPENS IN LVOV 24 JULY

LD241934 Warsaw PAP in English 1612 GMT 24 Jul 87

[By PAP special correspondent Maurycy Kamieniecki]

[Excerpt] Lvov, July 24 -- The Polish consular agency opened in Lvov, the Soviet Union, today.

In an address delivered at the courtyard of the consulate, where many Lvov residents grouped, Poland's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Wlodzimerz Natorf stressed that that important act was undoubtedly connected with implementing the declaration signed by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev last April which spoke about the need to deepen cooperation in numerous domains. This is yet another step towards the consolidation of internationalist friendship between socialist Poland and the Soviet Union.

The consular agency will serve the Polish and Soviet citizens who come as tourists, work here or arrive within the framework of cooperation.

Chairman of the Presidium of the Municipal Soviet of People's Deputies Wlodzimierz Piechota pointed out that the inauguration of the mission is taking place at the time when the Soviet Union faces great changes, that is perestroyka and democratization. He stated that the mission's opening stimulates the city of Lvov to develop all-round economic and cultural relations with Poland. [passage omitted]

BRITISH AMBASSADOR RECEIVED BY SHEVARDNADZE

LD251521 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 25 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze received Britain's ambassador in Moscow Bryan George Cartledge at the latter's request on July 24.

The British Ambassador handed over a personal message of the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev. In the course of the talk principal attention was paid to prospects of attaining a Soviet-American agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles at the Geneva negotiations.

Eduard Shevardnadze noted that the new Soviet proposal which opened up the way to a global ban on these armaments, created good opportunities for completing the work on drafting a relevant treaty within a brief timeframe. The main task now is not to complicate the course of the negotiations, to display the utmost good will and political realism.

Underlined in this connection was the need for physical liquidation on both sides of all relevant missiles and warheads, including American nuclear war heads to shorter-range "Pershing 1A" missiles which belong to the FRG. A reliable control over destruction of medium-range missiles and shorter-range missiles and also their warheads should be ensured.

Paying enhanced attention at the negotiations on nuclear and space armaments to the problem of liquidation of medium-range and shorter-range missiles, the minister said, the Soviet Union is not changing its principled stand, with the priority significance being attached, as before, to the task of reduction and liquidation of offensive armaments and also the question of preservation and consolidation of the ABM Treaty.

There has been an exchange of opinions on the Persian Gulf situation. It was underlined that it was necessary to take urgent and efficient steps aimed at a radical reduction of the tension in that region, an early end to the Iranian-Iraqi war. The U.N. Security Council's resolution adopted a few days ago is a major step. The main task now is to ensure its efficient implementation by the conflicting sides, other countries' assistance in promoting compliance with that decision. It is necessary to strictly follow the U.N. Security Council's call, to display the utmost restraint, to avoid actions that might lead to an escalation of the conflict.

One more hot point of the planet, the Middle East, is in proximity of the Persian Gulf. The urgency of a peace settlement of the Middle East problem is well understood both in the USSR and in Britain. There is also consent as to convocation of an international conference on the Middle East. The Soviet side gave explanations on the fundamental questions of the USSR's approach to preparations for the conference and its holding, noted a major role of the U.N. Security Council permanent members who should approach the matter with the utmost responsibility. [sentence as received]

Bilateral questions of mutual interest were also discussed in the course of the talk.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON KARPOV'S VISIT TO UK

Restructuring Discussed

PM241231 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "To Deepen Mutual Understanding and Trust"]

[Text] London, 23 Jul -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.V. Karpov, chairman of the Soviet-British Section of the USSR Parliamentary Group, which is visiting here, has had its first working session with British parliamentarians. An extensive exchange of opinions on the main problems of international and bilateral relations took place in the course of the conversation, which was held in an atmosphere of good will and desire to seek ways to deepen mutual understanding and trust between th peoples of the two countries.

The British parliamentarians showed intense interest in the process of restructuring in the Soviet Union and the results of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet session. They emphasized the great international importance of the profound political and socioeconomic changes now taking place in Soviet society. It was pointed out that the policy of restructuring has greatly changed the Western public's ideas about the Soviet state and has created hope for the world's real advance toward lasting security in conditions of broad international cooperation.

The delegation was received by D. Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. During the conversation both sides expressed confidence that the results of the Soviet-British summit meeting in Moscow gave a new and favorable fillip to bilateral relations and consolidated the political basis of dialogue between the two countries.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies also had conversations at ministries and British public and creative organizations, in the course of which they discussed practical aspects of questions of bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Arms Proposal Considered

LD241345 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] London July 24 TASS -- British MPs received with interest the new Soviet peace proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in an interview granted to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA and regarded them as a major step in the direction of nuclear disarmament creating favorable prospects for reaching accords in the Soviet-U.S. negotiations at Geneva. This was emphasized at a news conference given at the Soviet Embassy in London Thursday by a delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. led by Vladimir Karpov who heads the Soviet-British division of the Soviet Union's Parliamentary Group.

The speakers at the news conference stated that after their meetings and conversations with British MPs they were able to make the conclusion that the latter were increasingly aware of the importance of those initiatives for ridding mankind of the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

It was noted during the news conference that during a constructive exchange of views that had proceeded in an atmosphere of well-wishing the Soviet delegation and British MPs had discussed a wide range of problems, including revolutionary changes taking place in the Soviet Union. The sides also discussed questions of war and peace, ways for expanding mutual contacts in the scientific, cultural, ecological and other fields.

A parliamentary report on the results of the visit was circulated during the news conference. The document quoted the words of David Mellor, minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of Great Britain, to the effect that frank exchanges of opinions, like the one that had taken place during the delegation's visit, gave rise to hopes for a successful development of Anglo-Soviet relations.

THATCHER AIMS TO PROMPT U.S. ACTION ON ARMS

PM171211 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Special correspondent A. Shalnev dispatch: "Will It Be Possible To Get the President Moving? Prime Minister M. Thatcher's Visit to the United States"]

[Text] London -- British Prime Minister M. Thatcher embarks Thursday on a visit to the United States. The agenda for her talks in Washington with President Reagan and his closest advisers is extensive.

Above all, it will include questions of East-West relations, with a special emphasis on the situation in the arms control sphere. Then there are the prospects for convening an international conference on the Near East; the Iran-Iraq conflict; and finally the situation in the world economy, or rather the developments on the economic front since the meeting of heads of state and government of the seven major capitalist countries held in Venice in June.

Is M. Thatcher taking with her any specific concepts, ideas, or proposals relating to the first item on the agenda which she would like to share with the U.S. President? Whitehall has declined to give a direct answer to this question, referring to the confidentiality of such information. However, it is intimated that impatience and even irritation is growing in the British Government in connection with the increasingly obvious lull in the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms.

As David Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, put it during a conversation with a group of Soviet journalists, "the talks have ground to a halt." Whose fault is this? According to the minister of state, the Soviet side is to blame because, "inexpicably" as he noted, it has so far failed to agree to a meeting between Foreign Minster E.A. Shevardnadze and Secretary of State G. Shultz -- a meeting to "clear the obstacles" out of the way of an agreement. This viewpoint is not new. As a simple comparison shows, D. Mellor's statement, intended for "general consumption," so to speak, repeats almost word for word what a State Department spokesman said in Washington a few days earlier.

However, highly informed influential circles in Whitehall are saying that M. Thatcher will do her utmost to stress in Washington that the White House must not let itself be sidetracked by "Irangate" and must, as leader of the Western world, display will in questions of arms control. "This leadership," it is said, "must be displayed now and not at some point in the future; it is necessary right now."

The following conclusion should be drawn from this utterance, in my view: According to London, the ball is now in the U.S. court, and the United States is doing nothing about it.

Opinions vary as to why Washington is in no hurry. "Irangate," no doubt, is among the factors, although it is by no means the main one. Meanwhile, the answer to the question of whether the British premier will manage to get the U.S. President moving its likely to emerge within the next few days.

ADDITIONAL U.S. MISSILES IN UK DRAW COMMENT

LD161523 Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] The British Defense Ministry has confirmed officially that a consignment of American cruise missile launchers has been brought to the Molesworth military base 80 kilometers north of London. Yuriy Solton has written the following comment.

Molesworth is the second base after Greenham Common where American nuclear Tomahawaks will be deployed. There will be a total of 160 of them in Britain. Colonel Kent Harbaugh, who has been placed in charge of the Molesworth base, has told journalists the missiles will be put on a stand-by alert by the end of next year as planned. The colonel's statement strikes you by its categorical nature. What stands behind it? Is this the zealousness of a hard-core soldier or the categorical opinion of a person who knows that the American program for cramming Western Europe with cruise and Pershing-2 missiles will be carried through in spite of everything?

In any case, the question arises what the [as heard] Americans are after; are they for an earliest attainment of an agreement on eliminating medium and shorter-range missiles as Washington officials claim, or for their further buildup? The Soviet Union has long unilaterally stopped deploying SS-20 missiles in its European part, and is gradually dismantling older missiles. As for the United States, it apparently prefers to act differently.

One cannot help but draw a link between the deployment of another consignment of American Tomahawk missiles and the unconstructive stand taken by the American delegation at Geneva. It torpedoed the work of finalizing the text of a treaty on eliminating nuclear missiles in Europe. Worthy of attention in this respect are opinions that have lately been voiced in some NATO capitals. Some claim there that nuclear disarmament may threaten peace.

The West German defense minister, Manfred Woerner has declared for one that in case Moscow and Washington sign an agreement on reducing landbased nuclear missiles in Europe, the West should immediately enlarge the arsenal of its air and sea-based nuclear missiles. The reasons lying behind such a negative stand taken by NATO countries, as the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev noted recently, are the same: The interests shown by the influential militarist groupings in the arms race, and as a consequence of this, the lack in the NATO ruling quarters of a constructivist concept as to how East-West relations should be built if controntation is given up, writes in his comment Yuriy Solton.

RADIO HOOKUP BRINGS TOGETHER YOUTH OF UK, USSR

PM231329 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 18 Jul 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Radio Bridge of Friendship and Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] Moscow -- Young people in the Soviet Union and Britain have much in common -- concern for the fate of the world and a sincere desire for mutually enriching exchanges and joint efforts to resolve acute problems which concern mankind. This was vividly illustrated by the first radio hookup between Radio Moscow and the BBC's Radio One, between representatives of Soviet and British young people gathered in Moscow and a Bristol radio studio. During the 90-minute dialogue between young men and women separated by more than 3,000 km a lively exchange of views took place on questions of curbing the arms race, young people's recreation, the problems of alcoholism, and the spread of AIDS and drug addiction.

The arms race, and above all the nuclear arms race, is not just senseless, it can have terrifying consequences, Karen Mee from Plymouth said with genuine conviction. It is impermissible to spend vast sums of money for this purpose. I believe that the efforts undertaken by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, with a view to reducing military arsenals must be continued. And they must be widely supported by the ruling circles and the peoples of all Western countries without exception, she emphasized.

Replying to numerous questions from his British contemporaries, Sergey Khaustov, a student at the Maurice Thorez Moscow State Teaching Institute of Foreign Languages, described in detail young Soviet people's interests and spiritual requirements.

Summing up the dialogue, senior BBC radio producer Bill Morris said that the idea of organizing this exchange of views arose because interest in the Soviet Union and the restructuring and openness which are under way there has increased sharply in Britain, especially among young people.

END OF RUST INQUIRY NOTED, POSSIBLE CHARGES

AU251425 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, July 25 (AFP) -- Teenage West German pilot Mathias Rust, who landed his light aircraft in Moscow's Red Square on May 28, is to be tried, a reliable West German source said late Friday.

Soviet officials have completed a 57-day investigation into his case, and the West German embassy here has been told Mr Rust will be formally charged next Tuesday, the source said.

The source added that the date and place of his trial would also be made known Tuesday, and that he would be able to select a Soviet lawyer of his own choice.

There were no immediate details as to which charges would be filed against Mr. Rust. If convicted, for instance, of violating Soviet airspace under Article 84 of the Russian Republic's penal code, he could be jailed from one to 10 years, be fined 1,000 rubles (1,500 dollars), and have his aircraft confiscated.

The embassy has asked for permission to send an observer to the trial, the source added. [passage omitted]

DEMICHEV AWARDS ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP OFFICIAL

LD161448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin presented the Order of the Friendship of Peoples to Vincenzo Corghi, secretary general of the Italy-USSR Friendship Society.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presdium, and the Soviet Government Petr Demichev warmly congratulated the prominent Italian public figure on his award, which marks his energetic activity in strengthening and developing friendship between the Italian and Soviet peoples. He stressed that the Soviet Union consistently adheres to a policy of expanding cooperation with Italy in all spheres of life.

Having expressed gratitude for the award, Vincenzo Corghi assured Demichev that he would continue to apply his efforts to strengthen Italian-Soviet friendship. He stated that the Italy-USSR Friendship Society, which brings together in its ranks all the country's demcocratic forces, is decisively in favor of deepening mutual understanding between Italian and Soviet peoples, and of relaxing the international atmosphere.

Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Zagladin, first deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; Tereshkova, chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; and members of the Presidential councils of the USSR-Italy and Italy-USSR societies were present at the award ceremony.

MALYSHEV COMMENTS ON GREECE-USSR COOPERATION

LD231743 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS -- By TASS commentator Vladimir Malyshev:

Today the Greek people are celebrating a red-letter date -- in July 1974 the dark clouds of the dictatorial regime hanging over that country dissipated and a civilian government came to power.

For more than seven years the black figure of a soldier holding a rifle with a fixed bayonet against the backdrop of the bird phoenix rising from the ashes, which was the emblem of the junta of the "black colonels", symbolised the arbitrary rule of the reactionary military dictatorship in Greece. Thousands of democrats were arrested, the junta closed down the parliament, disbanded all the political parties and mass organisations of the working people, eliminated the democratic rights and freedoms. The dark night of fascist dictatorship came down upon the country with the most ancient democratic traditions, in whose language the very word "democracy" first appeared.

The putsch of the black colonels was no "surprise action" by a group of "discontented officers", as the Western press was once trying to picture the coup in Athens. On the contrary it was prepared and actively backed by the CIA and NATO. This way the reactionary circles overseas were trying to deal a blow to the democratic forces of Greece and ensure "stability" on the NATO's southern flank.

Yet the dictatorial regime collapsed as a result of the courageous struggle waged by the people of Greece, all the democratic forces, of the total political and moral failure of the military regime.

The current Greek leadership led by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is pursuing a policy of strengthening peace, developing good-neighbourliness and equitable cooperation with different countries, including the USSR. The policy statements by the government of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), the party documents of the socialists view the struggle for strengthening peace as one of the most important components of Greece's foreign policy. Today Greece wishes to play an independent constructive role in disarmament issue, is making its contribution to the cause of preventing the threat of war.

The Soviet Union sympathetically treats the striving of the Government of Greece to strengthen national independence, supports the intention put forward in the PASOK government programme to seek the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from the country's territory.

Greece is successfully developing cooperation with the Soviet Union. A long-term programme has been signed for the development of economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. In February 1985, Andreas Papandreou was on an official visit to the Soviet Union. In the course of the talks held then the conclusion was drawn of the need for resolutely working for an improvement of international relations, establishing even closer ties between the peoples and governments of Greece and the USSR. This policy accords with the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries which treat each other with sincere sympathy and respect.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the democratic peaceable Greece is an important factor in ensuring peace and strengthening cooperation in the European continent.

GORBACHEV ADDRESSES CPSU CC CONFERENCE 24 JUL

PM261615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 87 Second Edition pp 1,2

[TASS report: "Unswervingly Building Up the Output of Modern Equipment; Conference at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] A conference was held at the CPSU Central Committee on 24 July, at which progress in fulfilling the program for the modernization of the nation's machine building industry in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee June 1987 Plenum was discussed.

Taking part in the conference were: M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; L.N. Zaykov, V.P. Nikonov, N.N. Slyunkov, members of the Central Committee Politburo; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the Central Committee Politburo; A.P. Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; L.A. Voronin, I.S. Silayev, and B.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; and G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Heads of the machine building ministries and central economic organs, scientists and specialists, senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers were invited to the conference.

M.S. Gorbachev opened the conference. The processes of restructuring, he said, profoundly touch all spheres of our public life and have started to dynamically affect the economy as well. The CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and its decisions have essentially completed the construction of the socialist economic model, corresponding to the present stage of the country's development.

The fulfillment of everything that has been mapped out will be determined by the resolution of two key issues: the broad introduction of the new economic mechanism and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. Understandably, the use of these main levers for lifting the economy must be combined with an enhancement of the role of the human factor. Then the success of the matter will be guaranteed.

Today we will talk about scientific and technical progress. Profound qualitative transformations will be required in all branches of the national economy. Nevertheless, while we understand this fully, we give priority to machine building. Its accelerated development is the basis for the rapid renovation of the country's production mechanism, the materialization of scientific ideas, the achievement of high steady rates of growth for the economy and national income, and the solution of social problems. It must be admitted that for many years due attention was not paid to developing machine building at an outstripping rate.

Before the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum last year, a profound analysis was carried out of the state of affairs in machine building and a detailed program was elaborated for modernizing it. The Central Committee plenum ratified this program. The essence of it is, in the forthcoming 6-7 years, to reach the highest world levels in parameters for the most important machines, equipment, and instruments, and to create in the industries a highly effective and mobile scientific and production potential capable of meeting the requirements of the national economy for the very latest technology. The aims and the tasks, let us put it frankly, are unprecedented in the history of our nation's industry.

This work, quite understandably so, requires a total mobilization of forces and total commitment not only in machine building, but throughout the national economy. How are the plans being implemented? That is a legitimate question. It is clear from everything that things are getting better in machine building. There has been an increase both in the work and in practical performance. It would be wrong not to see this, however many critical and, of course, justified reprimands might be addressed to the machine building industry.

All the same, the Central Committee politburo and the government continue to be troubled over the fact that the fulfillment of the program for the modernization of the machine building industry is not proceeding everywhere as is required by the policy of acceleration.

Just take the renewal of output. In the current year the plan for this important indicator is 7.6 percent, but in the first 6 months only 4.3 percent has been attained. The state plan for the development of science and technology is not being fulfilled by the machine building ministries. In the January-June period, the targets for assimilating very important types of new generation machinery and equipment have been 80 percent, and for the assimilation of progressive technologies 93 percent fulfilled. The targets included in the scientific-technological programs have been 84 percent fulfilled. In this connection it is appropriate to speak about sectorial science.

In machine building its potential is enormous: around 700 institutes and design bureaus manned by upwards of 400,000 people. In a number of collectives a creative atmosphere is becoming firmly established, while the orientation toward a mediocre level of development work and imitation of the West is becoming a thing of the past. However, the situation in sectorial science for the time being remains on the whole unfavorable. This is currently one of the most acute issues relating to restructuring in machine building.

M.S. Gorbachev also discussed the problem of renovating fixed assets in machine building, primarily their active component. Currently this process is still progressing slowly. It is evident that the State Planning Committee and the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply must once more analyze how much and what kind of equipment to allocate in order to renovate at a preferential pace the production potential of machine building, particularly its fundamental sectors: machine tool building, instrument construction, and electrical engineering.

M.S. Gorbachev drew attention to the need to implement special measures for increasing production and for raising the technical level of equipment for the light and food sectors of industry. Not even the slightest lag is tolerable in this area, since all of this is connected in the most direct manner with raising the welfare of the people, with the preservation of agricultural products, and with increasing the national income and the commodity circulation in the country.

Primary machine building, and machine tool building in particular, are faced with great tasks. The expected breakthrough has not yet occurred here. And if there should be no progress in machine tool building, if it should not supply modern equipment in the necessary quantities, if it should be unable to raise labor productivity several times over, then progress in all other sectors could become obstructed. Machine tool building is, as they say, the "holy of holies" of technical progress. Here, too, where the technical level of production, its renewal, and increasing the output of modern means of production are concerned, it is essential to move forward rapidly on all points and at redoubled rates to overtake machine building as a whole. [paragraph continues]

This is an indisputable vital truth. Everyone must take this strictly as their starting point: the Bureau of the Council of Ministers for Machine Building, Gosplan, and the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry itself.

We have glanced over spheres of the machine building complex, which differ in their organizational and economic nature, said M.S. Gorbachev, but what is common to the essence of all the processes taking place here is unambiguous. This is what can be said about it. In those places where people are moving decisively to strengthen restructuring, to affirm the new style, to strengthen the cadre potential, to teach themselves to think in new economic and political ways, there, despite all the difficulties that arise, they are achieving progress. There the state acceptance service hinders no one; no one falls into despair at the irreversible necessity of ensuring 100 percent fulfillment of agreements and of fulfilling the strenuous targets of saving all kinds of material, fuel, and energy resources.

There is one conclusion to be drawn: machine building must be brought out of the zone of holdups and lagging behind as quickly as possible. No retreat is permissible from the program outlined for its development. There will be no turning back. It is a matter first and foremost of persistently increasing the output of the most modern generations of technology, integrated machine systems for guaranteeing technological breakthroughs in production, and its reequipment on the latest basis.

The main success here depends on how far the cadres in the higher runs of management -- in ministries, in the major detachment of industry science and the links where the fate of social and economic acceleration is ultimately decided, in associations and enterprises -- will think and act in a new way.

Participants in the conference then spoke.

The program for the radical modernization of machine building endorsed by the party and government has had a vast influence on its qualitative restructuring, stressed V.M. Velichko, USSR minister of heavy, power, and transport machine building. He spoke of the work being done to set up modern types of atomic, turbine, metallurgical, and oil extraction equipment. A new investment policy has permitted efforts and resources to be concentrated on renewing production apparatus, increasing the level at which institutes and design offices are equipped and reinforcing their experimental base. In light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum, the structure of the ministry is being improved, transition to a two-tier system of management is underway, and the integration of science and production is being intensified. Working under conditions of full financial autonomy and self-financing, there can be no tolerance of imbalance in plans or of interruptions in material and technical supplies. It is essential that the USSR Gosplan endorse economic norms quickly.

N.A. Pugin, USSR minister of automotive industry, said that the ministry's enterprises had been among the first in the country to introduce financial autonomy and self-financing. On this basis, they have achieved a substantial increase in production efficiency. The tasks have been fulfilled for growth in output of production, labor productivity, and profit and for reducing prime costs. The equipment being produced is being renewed according to plan and its economical nature and reliability are being enhanced. In the current 5-year plan more than 250 new models and modifications of machine will be created. The country's pool of diesel-powered motor vehicles will increase substantially. The sector has substantially increased the sale of equipment on the external market; however, the system of providing economic incentives for enterprises to expend their exports needs further refinement. [paragraph continues]

There is also a need for clarification of certain provisions concerning the formation of funds for the development of production and of the social sphere under conditions of full economic accountability.

Ministers O.G. Anfimov and M.S. Shkabardnya spoke about the work being done to strengthen the role played by sectorial science in modernizing machine building, and about the need to transfer scientific research institutes and design bureaus to financial autonomy as soon as possible. The electrotechnical and instrument building industries have gained the experience of transferring scientific organizations to financial autonomy. There are also positive results, but the USSR Gosplan is slow to make decisions on this issue. The ministers gave a self-critical assessment of the state of affairs regarding enhancing the technical level and quality of items produced. Many types of technology are still inferior to the best models in their service life and operational reliability. This is true, for instance, of subsurface electric motors for petroleum extraction, low-voltage apparatus, electrically driven devices, control systems, and computers. Serious complaints were addressed to allied ministries regarding providing enterprises with better supplies of materials and components.

Ministers A.A. Yezhevskiy discussed the progress achieved in fulfilling the agricultural machine building industry's tasks regarding increasing its output of reliable, high-productivity machinery for introducing intensive technologies to collective and state farms. More than 500 new types of machinery have been created over the past 3 years. The 'Don' combine performed well, particularly in harvesting bread crops under this year's difficult conditions. At the same time, Comrade Yezhevskiy noted that in the sector work is still being conducted poorly on the assimilation of integrated complexes of machines for the broad introduction of new effective technologies in arable farming and animal husbandry, and for the creation in rural localities of support centers for enterprises and for the expansion of the equipment servicing network.

In his speech, N.A. Panichev, minister of the machine tool and tool making industry, focussed his attention on an analysis of the reasons for the industry's lagging behind in updating the equipment produced and in improving the structure of the machine tool pool, and for its not fulfilling the plans for the output of metal working equipment. The program for accelerating scientific-technological progress in the industry was confirmed by the ministry. An inventory was made for promising types of machine tools. The targets for creating forging and pressing and precision equipment have been revised. The decision was made to form for the machine tool industry its own scientific and production base for creating electronic equipment and numeric control systems for machine tools. The machine tool builders accumulated some experience by cooperating with enterprises in the CEMA countries and with capitalist firms.

At the same time, an immediate solution to the problem of replacing the active component of fixed capital is required for the successful development of the machine tool building industry. In this matter the help of central economic bodies is required.

L.B. Vasilyev, USSR minister of machine building for the light and food industry and household appliances, noted that the sector is still only slowly creating progressive equipment and that its output is being increased insufficiently. After giving information about measures adopted to improve cooperation with clients, to establish the state acceptance service, to involve other sectors in the manufacture of the required equipment, and to intensify the activeness of sectorial science, the minister drew attention to shortcomings in the design and development of subassemblies, serious problems in material and technical supply, and instances of late payments by consumers for finished products.

Ministers V.M. Lukyanenko and Ye.A. Varnachev reported on the progress of restructuring in chemical and petroleum machine building and construction, road, and municipal machine building. It was noted that the pace of updating machinery currently in production and the increase in its output is slow. Great concern was expressed at the inadequate satisfaction of the chemical industry's need for modern equipment. The view was expressed that it will be necessary to create within the shortest possible time a number of highly equipped enterprises for the production of chemical industry. The construction industry also needs to be better supplied with highly productive machinery.

It is necessary to more decisively strengthen cooperation between scientists and industrial enterprises in the introduction of microprocessor and computer technology, Ye.P. Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said at the conference. In his speech he explained the methods of joint work in this sphere between academy scientists and the "ZIL" association. In his view, not all the intersectorial scientific and technical complexes that have been set up are producing a full return and radical measures are needed to improve the management of these key components of the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. A request was made for the allocation of material and technical resources to organize the production of highly effective systems for the automation of planning and design work at the "ZIL" association.

G.D. Kolmogorov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Standards, gave information about work being carried out to strengthen the influence of state standards in raising the technical level and the standard of machine building output, as well as about the results of the work of the state acceptance service. The need was stressed for the fuller use of international experience or standardization for the purposes of raising the competitiveness of Soviet equipment on the world market.

I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, reported on the work of the machine building complex and the tasks it faces. He discussed in detail the causes of the unsatisfactory work of ministries in the first half of the year, and on measures taken by the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine Building. The situation in machine building is becoming stable. Proposals were voiced for the further improvement of technical policy in sectors, for strengthening plan discipline, and for raising the responsibility of ministries and leaders of associations and enterprises for the acceleration of scientific and technical progress in machine building.

In summing up the results of the conference, M.S. Gorbachev said:

Without doubt, profound changes are taking place in machine building. They are visible in many things. It is most important that people, leading cadres, are undergoing restructuring. This is, of course, not the first time that I have had occasion to meet the leaders of machine building sectors, but today I have formed the impression that the comrades are making a more criticial assessment of the situation, they are looking to the long term and are acting accordingly. This is a good sign.

At the same time, the situation in the machine building complex is not simple. Things, as we have become convinced, are still progressing with difficulty, but responsible tasks have been set and their economic and political importance for the country is enormous. Major structural transformations and sharp changes in the course of modernization do not come about paninlessly. They do not do this becaue these processes encompass many links in the economy and science, and they involve the broad masses of the working people.

Under these conditions it would be a great mistake to seek easy, simplified solutions for the purpose of creating the appearance of vigor, the appearance of changes.

That is why it is so important that the leadership of the machine building complex and the ministers create reserves of scientific and technical works in hand, which will ensure that the sectors reach the leading level.

I would like to underline again and again that the task of reaching the highest world level of machines, equipment, and instruments that are being manufactured is the primary task of machine building. It is a task of the entire state, of the entire party. And we must, we are obliged to solve this problem. Machine builders will receive any kind of help they need from the state. But their answerability for the fulfillment of all the decisions adopted will also be increased.

Gosplan, Gossnab, Gosstroy, and other central organs must provide the backup for all the priorities in the development of machine building. This fundamental line determined by the party must find reflection in plans and practical matters.

Now it is particularly important to prepare well for the transfer to full financial autonomy and self-financing. Those who are working in the new conditions can confirm how essential comprehensive and high quality preparation is. If the least carelessness is permitted at the launch stage, negative consequences in the economy of the enterprise will soon make themselves felt. That is why no time must be wasted getting into the swing of it.

In a word, comrades, it is necessary to restructure oneself more boldly in all directions. We are counting on you.

POLITBURO DISCUSSES FOOD PROGRAM; GROSZ, NAJIB VISITS

LD231859 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jul 87

[Text] On 23 July the CPSU Central Committee Politburo approved the list of main questions for examination by the Politburo and the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee during the second 6-month period of this year, as specified in accordance with the directions of the CPSU Central Committee June 1987 Plenum.

Urgent measures needed to fulfill the demands of the June Plenum for accomplishing the tasks of the Food Program were discussed. In this connection, the need was stressed to increase incentives and develop the initiative of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the population to increase production and sales of agricultural produce. The Politburo identified the task of stepping up the work of food sectors of industry and other enterprises of the agro-industrial complex, organizations of consumer cooperative societies, subsidiary farms at industrial enterprises, and removing the restrictions inhibiting the growth of food resources. In accomplishing this task, a special role is being assigned to developing the initiative of local bodies, providing effective moral and material incentives for labor collectives and all rural inhabitants.

In order to increase the contribution by citizens' private subsidiary holdings to solving the food problem, it has been recommended that the norms for keeping cattle and the maximum permissible sizes of household plots be revised. It is planned to improve the provision of the population's holdings with feeds, young stock and chicks, means of small-scale mechanization, and to assist them in marketing what is produced.

Orders were given that in the near future citizens' requests for the allocation of horticultural plots and gardens should be fully met.

A long-term state program for the comprehensive development of the productive forces of the Far Eastern economic region, the Buryat ASSR, and Chita oblast for the period up to the year 2000, which was prepared in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, was approved. The program sets a pace of growth for the construction of housing and cultural and consumer services amenities, for industrial production, for the buildup of the export potential of the Far East and the Zabaykalye, and for the strengthening of the region's food base, which is higher than in the country as a whole. It outlines measures for the rational use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. It is planned to create a highly efficient national economy complex in the Far East which will become an integral part of the system of all-union and international division of labor. The central economic bodies, USSR ministries and departments, the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and the local party, soviet, and economic bodies of the Far East and Zabaykalye have been instructed to regard the program's tasks in the capacity as the foundation of the formation of the state order as the minimum and to encourage any opportunity to exceed them in every possible way.

The Politburo discussed the results of the conversations between Comrades Gorbachev and Ryzhkov with Grosz, MSZMP Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman of the Hungarian People's Republic. It was noted that now that both countries must accomplish complicated economic tasks, the importance maximizing the potential of their cooperation has grown. The Soviet Union and Hungary can give each other a great deal through deepening economic and scientific and technical cooperation, setting up joint production ventures, and sharing experience. The relevant bodies have been given instructions on specific issues raised during the visit.

The Politburo has approved the results of the conversation between Comrade Gorbachev and Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, during which resolute support was expressed for the course toward national reconciliation in the country, which is being pursued by the PDPA, and additional steps were discussed in the interests of the earliest possible normalization of the situation around Afghanistan. It was stressed that the Soviet Union firmly advocates that Afghanistan be an independent, sovereign, and nonaligned state.

The results of the trips by Comrade Nikonov to Poland and Comrade Biryukova to Bulgaria were examined and approved. A few other questions of domestic and foreign policy were also discussed.

CPSU CC ADOPTS DECISION ON IMPROVING FOOD SUPPLIES

LD221116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jul 87

["In the CPSU Central Committee": Report on the work of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives, local party, soviet, and economic bodies to fulfill the 21 July decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on measures to improve the supplies of fruit, vegetables, and potatoes to Moscow and Leningrad]

[Text] In a decision that has been adopted, the CPSU Central Committee notes that the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives, cities of Moscow and Leningrad, and a number of union and autonomous republics, krays and oblasts have failed to ensure that essential organizational work is carried out in order to fulfill the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, and moreover have permitted sluggishness and lack of discipline to occur.

As a result, supplies of fruit, vegetables, and potatoes to Moscow and Leningrad have failed to acquire a steady nature. The plan for the first half of the year for bringing many types of vegetables, fruit, and berries into these cities has not been fulfilled.

The Ukrainian SSR, Uzbek SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR, Turkmen SSR, Krasnodar Kray, Moscow, Leningrad, Rostov, and some other RSFSR oblasts have wrecked the tasks that have been set to deliver a whole range of output.

The Councils of Ministers of a number of union and autonomous republics, kray ispolkoms, and oblispolkoms have failed to safeguard -- as has been demanded by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers -- immediate deliveries of high quality fruit, vegetables, and potatoes to Moscow and Leningrad. Serious shortcomings in the organization of trade in fruit and vegetable produce have not been eliminated. Its range is limited in many shops. Delays in the trade in potatoes, vegetables, and fruit are not infrequent, while a sufficient quantity of these is to be found at the fruit and vegetable depots. Marketing of products have been declined in Moscow this year, relative to the same period in 1986. With the advent of summer, the trade in fruit, vegetables, and early potatoes is being improved at an unacceptably slow pace.

The level of service is low; progressive methods of trade are not being implemented vigorously enough. These and other shortcomings cause just complaints by the working people.

Comrade Zaychenko of the USSR Gosagroprom; Comrade Trunov of the Central Union of Consumers Cooperatives [Tsentrosoyuz]; Comrade Aleshin of the USSR Trade Ministry; Comrade Saykin of Moscow City Executive Council; and Comrade Khodyrev of Leningrad Gorispolkom do not display the appropriate persistence and quick response in resolving urgent issues of providing the urban population with fruit, vegetables, and potatoes of good quality. They have not achieved the appropriate degree of control over timely deliveries of produce or over expanding the network of trade enterprises, organizatons, and their work.

The fruit and vegetables depots work in an unsatisfactory way. The quality of marketed produce remains low. The issues of adequately staffing trade enterprises and depots for storing potatoes, fruits, and vegetables are still to be resolved.

The Central Committees of the Communist Parties of union republics, krayroms, and obkoms fail to assess in a principled party way instances of irresponsibility by leaders of sovkoz', kolkhoz', and procurement organizations which do not meet the deadlines for produce deliveries, and tolerate the shipment of low quality produce.

The Moscow Gorkom does not make high demands of the leaders of party, soviet, and economic bodies of the city for the fulfillment of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers. Serious shortcomings exist in the work of party committees of Leningrad and its oblast.

The CPSU Central Committee has demanded from the USSR Gosagrprom, Tsentrosoyuz, union and republican ministries and departments, Moscow and Leningrad gorkoms, Moscow and Leningrad Gorispolkoms, the Central Committees of Communist Parties of the union republics, kraykoms and obkoms, Councils of Ministers of union and autonomous republics, kray ispolkoms and oblispolkoms, to eradicate existing serious shortcomings in the fulfillment of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, and to increase the accountability of leaders and experts of agricultural, procurement, trade and transport enterprises and organizations, fruit and vegetable complexes for strict adherence to the plan discipline and contractual pledges. Party, soviet, and economic bodies are to achieve in reality restructuring in their practical activities, and to bring about a radical improvement in providing the population of Moscow and Leningrad with a wide range of high quality produce in the shortest possible time.

The economic machinery of economic management ensuring a high level of personal involvement by all units of the fruit and vegetable complex in yielding high final results, their close cooperation in production, transportation, storage, and marketing of high quality produce, should be fully utilized.

TATARS STAGE SECOND DEMONSTRATION IN MOSCOW

AU241513 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Sylvie Kauffmann report]

[Text] Moscow, July 24 (AFP) -- Some 100 Tatars demanding the right to return to their native Crimea gathered Friday outside Communist Party headquarters here for their second demonstration in 24 hours, dissidents reported here.

The Soviet news agency TASS acknowledged Thursday that the deportation of the 400,000 Tatar population from the Crimea to Soviet Central Asia, ordered by Stalin in 1944, was unjust.

A Tatar spokesman said Friday that the protesters refused an interview with First Deputy President Petr Demichev, saying that they were demanding to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. A group of Tatars demonstrated Thursday outside the Communist Party headquarters here and in the Red Square to demand a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

The Tatars claimed that some 100,000 people died during the forced relocation, ordered because of allegations that some Tatars collaborated with occupying Nazi forces during World War II.

But the Tatars strongly contested Friday the version of their history summarized in an official announcement carried by TASS on Thursday, which said "Tatar volunteers" participated in the killing of 86,000 Russians, Jews, Ukrainians, Greeks and Gypsies.

The announcement had, however, acknowledged that thousands of Crimean Tatars fought the Nazis, but did not refer to the demonstrations.

The Crimean Tatars today claim to number nearly a million-and-a-half throughout the Soviet Union.

The protesters, seeking to return to their Black Sea homeland, called for a "national action day" Sunday.

They have demanded "national government structures" under a 1921 decree that established an autonomous Crimean republic. The republic was dissolved in 1945, and nine years later became part of the Soviet Ukrainian republic.

The demonstration Friday followed nearly three weeks of Tatar protests in Moscow, starting with a 45-minute gathering of 30 people in Red Square on July 6 which police dispersed.

But police did not break up the 100-strong sit-in Thursday, which protesters ended shortly after TASS acknowledged that "the wholesale deportation of the Crimean Tatar population was unjust." Soviet television also reported the announcement Thursday and newspapers on Friday.

Observers said the official acknowledgement that the Tatars had been victims of injustice under Stalin followed an intensifying Kremlin campaign criticising Stalinism.

TASS also reported that prominent Soviet writers known to support Mr. Gorbachev's policy of "perestroyka" or restructuring, including poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko, had written to Soviet authorities calling for the Tatars' rights to be restored.

The Tatars said they had been told a state committee had been set up to examine their demands, under the chairmanship of Soviet President Andrey Gromyko, on July 9 -- three days after their first 45-minute demonstration in Red Square.

TASS said the committee's findings would be published, but that "a certain amount of time" would be needed. Tatar representatives had been received by state and party officials in the last few months, TASS reported.

Tatars Back Official Efforts

LD241654 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Tashkent July 24 TASS -- "Most of the Crimean Tatars living in Uzbekistan welcome the formation of a special commission to deal with the range of problems pertaining to the fate of our nationality", Refat Godzhenov, a teacher from Tashkent, told TASS. Late in June, as a representative of the Crimean Tatars living in Central Asia he was present at a reception at the CPSU Central Committee where these issues were discussed.

"When I returned from Moscow, a meeting was organized in Tashkent", Godzhenov says. "At the meeting I reported back to the people who sent me to the capital, told them about a businesslike and serious approach to our problems on the part of the country's leadership. Participants in the meeting for the most part agreed that we should support the government's efforts and calmly wait for the commission's conclusions".

"A small group of extremists who refuse to cooperate with the authorities, make absurd political demands and openly advocate 'aid' from abroad, sent its own delegate to the meeting -- Nariman Kadyrov", Godzhenov said furthermore.

"He tried to fan up passions but in vain. The instigator who called to appeal to the foreign public was sent away. I agree that our issue is not a simple one but it is ours, domestic, and it is only we who can solve it".

TASS Reports Tatar Demands

LD250931 Moscow TASS in English 0909 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 25 TASS -- A group of Crimean Tatars gathered today in the centre of Moscow insisting on the immediate restoration of the Crimean autonomous republic.

It has been reported already that during the past several months representatives of Crimean Tatars were received in party and state bodies on several occasions. It was explained to them that the situation in the Crimea today is entirely different from the one that existed before the war. This is why the problem of the autonomy of Crimean Tatars should be considered within the framework of the existing situation, in the interests of all the peoples of the country, that way it is envisaged by the constitution of the USSR.

With a view to analyzing the whole range of problems raised in statements of the citizens from among Crimean Tatars a commission was set up headed by Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The commission will need time for work. Its conclusions will be made public.

A report on the setting up of the commission was met with satisfaction by the majority of Crimean Tatars in places of their permanent residence. However, some extremist-minded people insist that this complicated problem be resolved at once.

Tatars, Security Forces Clash

AU251748 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 25 -- A group of 300 Crimean Tatars clashed briefly with Soviet security forces here late Saturday, for the first time since they began a three-day-old sit-in near Red Square three days ago.

The Tatars are demanding to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev so they can press their claim to be able to return to their native Crimea, from which 400,000 Tatars were forcibly moved by Josef Stalin in 1944 for "collaborating with the Nazis."

The protesters rose from a silent sit-in near the Kremlin wall, and tried to break security lines to demonstrate in Red Square.

Brandishing placards and banners reading "homeland or death" and "Let us go back to living in Crimea," the Tatars chanted "rodina, rodina," the Russian word for homeland.

They were held back by about one hundred militiamen and KGB officers. Several protesters fell to the ground and correspondents heard cries of women, many of whom came with children.

After scuffles with security forces that lasted a few minutes, the Tatars returned to their sit-in near the Kremlin wall, where they remained waving clenched fists and shouting "Gorbachev, Gorbachev" as they pulled out giant portraits of the Soviet leader and of Lenin.

They also cried: "Shame on TASS" in an attack on the official Soviet news agency which Thursday issued a statement on the Tatars saying that "Tatar volunteers" took part in the killing of 86,000 Russians, Jews, Ukrainians, Greeks and Gypsies.

TASS acknowledged, however, that the deportation of the Tatars from the Crimea to Soviet Central Asia, ordered by Stalin in 1944, was unjust, although it said that only 200,000 were involved.

A committee to be presided by Soviet President Andrey Gromyko would examine "problems" raised by the Tatars of Crimea, the agency said. It also admitted that thousands of Crimean Tatars had fought the Nazis during World War II.

In another statement issued Saturday, the agency referred for the first time to "a gathering of Crimean Tatars in central Moscow," but did not give further details.

"Some extremist-minded people insist that this complicated problem be resolved at once," it commented.

Witnesses said the protest was filmed by plain-clothes Soviet officers.

An ambulance and a firetruck also stood nearby, along with several tourists and onlookers.

A Soviet journalist interviewing spectators was told by one woman, "All these Tatars should be shot in Red Square."

The Tatars had earlier threatened to call nationwide demonstrations on Sunday if their demands were not met.

Tatars, Gromyko To Meet

AU261455 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 26 (AFP) -- More than 300 Tatars ended an unprecedented demonstration at the entrance to Red Square on Sunday after accepting an offer to meet President Andrey Gromyko on Monday, a spokesman for the group said here.

The Tatars, who are seeking the restoration of a Crimean autonomous republic from where the entire Tatar population was deported by Stalin in 1944, were initially demanding to see the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

An invitation to meet Mr. Gromyko had been declined by the demonstrators on Saturday, but spokesman Richat Dzhemilev said the demonstrators finally decided to accept it.

According to the spokesman, a delegation of some 20 Tatars will be received by Mr. Gromyko on Monday at noon (0800 GMT).

The president is head of a fact-finding committee on the Tatar issue.

After the end of their demonstration the Tatars, without police escort, crossed a bridge over the Moskva River as they filed away from the entrance to Red Square.

A large number of police who had prevented onlookers from approaching the demonstrators also dispersed.

The Tatars have been protesting in central Moscow for the last four days.

Radio on 'Extremist Actions'

LD261814 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] The TASS report published by the Soviet press on 24 July has provoked wide response around the country. In letters and telegrams the Soviet people are stressing that they are very concerned about strengthening the friendship and unity of the Soviet people. The balanced and calm tone of the report is noted, as is the realistic regard for the situation that has emerged, as well as the interests of all people in the country on the basis of the USSR Constitution. These thoughts are expressed by many Crimean Tatar citizens.

We support the creation of a governmental commission to resolve the national issue of Crimean Tatars, and we condemn the behavior of all those who, through their poorly thought-out actions in Moscow, are hindering the work being carried out. Such telegrams are being received by party and soviet bodies from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, the Krasnodar Kray, the Crimea oblast, and other regions where there are large concentrations of Crimean Tatars. People are responding with understanding to the historical assessments of the issue in question, and they are decisively distancing themselves from those who are trying to cast a shadow over the friendship of the Soviet people. These people are guided by emotions in tackling the complicated issues faced by a multinational state.

At the same time, a certain group of Crimean Tatars who came to Moscow are continuing to submit demands for the restoration of autonomy in the Crimea in order to enflame passions and to urge people to carry out hunger strikes and other extreme actions to pressure the ruling bodies. Individual instances of breaches of the peace have been recorded.

In this connection, the party and local soviet bodies of Moscow have again explained to those who have congregated that extremist actions only complicate a just and comprehensive examination of the issues. These bodies have stressed that strengthening the friendship and togetherness of the Soviet people is the constant and firm approach of the Communist Party and the Soviet state. It presupposes the impermissibility of any manifestations that would impinge on the interests of the equal nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union.

TASS: LENIN LETTER ON ABUSE OF POWER PUBLISHED

LD250727 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 25 TASS -- PRAVDA published today a new document connected with V.I. Lenin. It is a letter sent to Kazimir Kuligowski who worked in the 20's at the construction of a railway in the north-west of Russia. It is dated August 13, 1919. The letter was handed over to the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee by Wlodzimierz Kuligowski, Polish citizen, son of Lenin's correspondent.

The head of the Soviet Government answered a letter of Kazimir Kuligowski in which he asked to summon him to Moscow because he wanted to report cases of the violation of the revolutionary legality and the abuse of power on the part of representatives of local bodies of power and the management of the project. Lenin wrote in a concise form about the root causes of the abuse of power and other negative trends in the work of the party and state apparatus of that time.

Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, sent a letter to Woldzimierz Kuligowski in which he expressed profound gratitude for handing over Lenin's letter to the Institute of Marxism-Leninism.

SOLOVYEV, JOURNALISTS DISCUSS MASS MEDIA ROLE

PM241627 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jul 87 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Meeting With Journalists"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum, at which the concept of radical reform of national economic management was adopted, marks an important new stage in the life of the party and the state. Its decisions and the large-scale measures which it outlined are to remove obstacles in the way of accelerating socioeconomic development and reveal more fully the advantages and the tremendous potential of socialism. They reflect the fundamental interests of the working people and the country greeting its 70th anniversary.

The documents of the Central Committee plenum and the 7th USSR Supreme Soviet Session, 11th Convocation, provide powerful levers for implementing revolutionary transformations and further democratizing our society. The chief thing now is to make vigorous and skillful use of them.

This and the tasks of the mass media stemming from the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum decisions were discussed at a meeting held in Smolnyy yesterday between Yu. F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad obkom, and Leningrad journalists.

It was pointed out that newspapers, television, and radio have quite actively joined in solving the problems at the center of the oblast party organization's attention. The social significance and the effectiveness of articles have increased, the assessments made by journalists have become more profound and principled, and the authorial aktiv has been enlarged. All this makes it possible to promptly ascertain public opinion on a particular range of questions and take it into account in adopting fundamental organizational, economic, and managerial decisions.

However, we must not stop or reduce the intensity of this work, it was emphasized at the news conference. Radical changes in the economic sphere must be at the center of the mass media's attention. It was pointed out in this connection that a clear tendency to depart from the extensive model of development has become apparent in the Leningrad national economic complex; the majority of sectors are increasingly actively stepping up acceleration, and the social thrust of plans has been strengthened.

At the same time, the cost-based mechanism is still making itself felt. Thus, 69 enterprises have been transferred to full economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-capitalization in Leningrad since the beginning of the year. One in three of them is failing to cope with the profits plan -- now the most important indicator of production activity.

The proper conclusions must be drawn from this lesson. They are all the more necessary because the circle of enterprises being transferred to new management conditions will be enlarged significantly in the future. The mass media must also actively join in this process. [paragraph continues]

New ideas are frequently assimilated only slowly, and there are tenacious memories of old things. It is necessary to wage an implacable struggle against this in the manner of journalists and overcome stereotypes of leveling both in practice and in people's consciousness.

In connection with the adoption of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), coverage of questions associated with increasing production efficiency on the basis of organizing a multishift work regime, which is now becoming an obligatory norm in the life of labor collectives, also requires new approaches.

It was pointed out that, while giving extensive coverage to the course of radical changes in the economy, sight must not be lost of the plan. Restructuring does not release us from achieving the targets outlined for this year and the 5-year plan as a whole. Journalists must not lose sight of these questions.

It is necessary to focus attention skillfully on phenomena which slow down the implementation of positive changes and struggle resolutely against bureaucracy, red tape, and the willful administrative style of leadership which has become established in some places.

All this must be interpreted through the human factor, the struggle of the new against the old, and through people's specific interests and needs.

These and many other very complex questions insistently demand resolute changes in the practical activities of party committees, stronger party influence on the most important directions of restructuring, and an effective cadre policy. The press, radio, and television must constantly describe how this work is being done locally, painstakingly seek shoots of the new, and support and popularize progressive experience in every possible way.

It largely depends on the mass media whether people's enthusiasm and initiative can be channeled in the necessary direction. It is necessary to take a highly responsible approach to analyzing phenomena, not evade difficult questions, and learn to work under conditions of democratization. There are no forbidden topics, and it is important in every instance to make a considered, party-minded assessment of the processes taking place in society and not lose the correct reference points in the pursuit of outward garishness and effectiveness, as can be observed in certain publications. What is new in the economy and in social life demands of journalists high professionalism, party-minded principledness, and objectivity.

At the conclusion Yu. F. Solovyev answered questions from those present.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION ON DEPUTY MINISTER

PM241535 Moscow SOBRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SSSR: OTDEL PERVYY in Russian No 27, 1987 p 573

[Unattributed report on 22 April USSR Council of Ministers resolution]

[Text] Article 95. On the USSR First Deputy Minister of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry

The USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

To appoint Comrade Yu.A. Guskov USSR first deputy minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry, releasing Comrade N.G. Nikolskiy from these duties in connection with his retirement on pension for health reasons.

N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers
M. Smirtyukov, administrator of affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers
Moscow, the Kremlin, 22 April 1987, No 472

DEMOGRAPHER INTERVIEWED ON BIRTHRATE TRENDS

LD112233 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1950 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Interview with demographer Viktor Perevedentsev by Vladimir Molchanov on the "Up to and After Midnight" program; date, place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Molchanov] Viktor Ivanovich Perevedentsev is one of our best known demographers. I think our viewers are quite familiar with his writings which appear from time to time in the central press on population problems. Viktor Ivanovich, the UN secretary general said, when he opened our program today, that the birth of the 5 billionth inhabitant of the Earth gave him simultaneously a feeling of joy and a feeling of concern. How about you?

[Perevedentsev] I agree with the secretary general. As for the growth of the Earth's popoulation, it is happening much slower than was expected up until recently. And demographers believe that in the comparatively near future the world's population will stabilize. But our internal problems are very different from the world's problems. Our demographers in the Soviet Union are very concerned at the problem of under-reproduction: the problem of too few children in our western areas, in the European part of the country.

[Molchanov] And there is another problem. I read that in the big towns men and women between 25 and 35, that is, the most favorable age of embarking on marriage, do not want to get married. There has even grown up a somewhat dubious theory that it is easier to be alone. What do you think of that?

[Perevdentsev] Yes, the problem does exist. Girls are now getting married earlier than they used to. But the majority of divorced people do not want to start new legitimate families. There are very many divorces here -- according to the latest figures, 35 percent of marriages throughout the country, and in the big towns up to 50 percent or more -- and people who have had a taste of family happiness often do not want a repeat.

[Molchanov] Viktor Ivanovich, I do not know that demographers call the problem, but let us call it the standard of family life. Do you think the standard of family life is high enough in our country?

[Perevdentsev] No. The standard of family life in this county is unfortunately very low. This is shown best of all by the fact that there are several abortions for every live birth.

[Molchanov] Why does this happen? Because women do not have enough information?

[Perevdentsev] Well, there is not enough of anything. There is not enough information. There are not enough reliable contraceptives. And of course there is hypocrisy.

[Molchanov] How does that come about?

[Perevedentsev] Well, I think one could cite the example of what I think is the disturbing story of the book [name indistinct] by Semenovich, a very well-known specialist in these questions here. His book on sexology was written long ago and has been published in many countries of the world, but has still not been published here. Now I think they have decided to publish it, but for some reason only for official use.

[Molchanov] Tell me, there are quite a lot of reasons for divorce, but which reasons do the demographers consider to be the basic ones?

[Perevedentsev] I believe the main reason for the conflict and instability in young families today is the change in the type of family. Up until recently the so-called patriarchal family was dominant here, in which the husband was the head, the worker, the breadwinner, and the wife a housewife and mother. Now the family is becoming the so-called diarchal type, that is, the type where the husband and wife are more or less equal. And our young educated and qualified women today want everything in their family to be equally shared, including housework. Unfortunately our women are badly overloaded. In addition to their 8 hours at work they have another 4 or 5 hours doing housework, and husbands give them little help. This makes the wives very unhappy. In addition, of course, many wives are now more educated and more cultured than their husbands -- this is clearly shown by the statistics. A woman up to (?about) 40 is much more highly educated than men of the same age. So we have many families where the wife has higher education, for example, the husband secondary, or the wife has secondary and the husband has not completed secondary. Wives often have higher positions in production and quite frequently earn more and they simply are psychologically no longer able to take on themselves that heavy family (?burden).

[Molchanov] Viktor Ivanovich, a final question. You gave a really frightening figure. In a number of large cities there are 50 percent or even more divorces per year. What if we look into the future, into the more distant future? I hope we are not threatened with a marriageless society. But what threat do we face, actually?

[Perevedentsev] We are threatened with a falloff in the reproduction of the population, in other words there will not be nearly enough children to take the place of their parents' generation. It is not a matter of quantity, or not only of quantity. The fact is that this population will be very old, that is to say there will be a very large proportion of retired persons and very few young people. It will be a quite different society. We cannot yet clearly imagine what it will be like and how people will live in it.

[Molchanov] So how can it be avoided?

[Perevedentsev] There is only one way: only by raising our current low birth rate. For simple reproduction you have to have 260 births for every 100 families able to have children. People often think that it is enough for a family to have two children, but that is quite wrong. Some women are unable to have children for biological reasons. There are always fewer girls than boys born, and reproduction is correctly counted according to women: There must be 1,000 daughters to replace 1,000 mothers. And then some girls will not survive to the age of maternity. So for all these reasons there needs to be 260 births per 100 families able to have children.

IMPROVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES DEMANDED

PM231523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee; On the Unsatisfactory Fulfillment of Party and Government Decisions on Providing the Population with Construction Materials and Building Repair Services"]

[Text] A resolution adopted on this question notes that the USSR Gosplan, Gossnab, Gosstroy, ministries and departments, the Ministry of Trade, the Tsentrosoyuz, and union republic councils of ministers are being intolerably slow and irresponsible in carrying out previously adopted party and government decisions on providing the population with construction materials and meeting more fully the need for building repair services.

The CPSU Central Committee assessed the situation with regard to the resolution of this most important socioeconomic task as unsatisfactory and the attitude to it adopted by ministry and department leaders as intolerable.

Statements were put on record by leaders of the USSR Gosplan, Gossnab, Gosstroy, the Ministries of Construction in the Far East and Transbaykal Regions, Construction for Areas of the Urals and Western Siberia, Chemical Industry, Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, Construction Materials Industry, Aviation Industry, Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, Trade, and the Tsentrosoyuz to the effect that they admit their full personal responsibility for the fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers directives and will take immediate and exhaustive measures to fully satisfy the population's requirements for timber and construction materials in the necessary ranges and for building repair services, and that the problem will be solved in the very near future.

Believing the unpardonable complacency and passivity shown by republic, kray, and oblast organs in meeting the population's requirements for building repair services and construction goods, the extremely slow development of their production, and the toleration of the vicious practice of diverting resources intended for retail sale to other purposes to be impermissible, the CPSU Central Committee demanded that all existing reserves and capacities for expanding building repair services and considerably increasing production of local construction materials be urgently brought into play, that undisrupted trade in such materials be organized everywhere, and that parasitism be ended in this important matter.

Union republic communist party central committees and kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms were instructed to step up their demandingness toward cadres and establish strict control over the fulfillment of CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions on providing the population with construction materials and building repair services.

People's control organs have been instructed to check the progress of the fulfillment by the USSR Gosplan, Gossnab, ministries, departments, enterprises, and organizations of measures envisaged by the party and government resolutions on the aforesaid questions.

The mass media have been instructed to publicize in detail the activity of ministries, departments, and local party, soviet, and economic organs in supplying the population with timber and construction materials and building repair services, and to propagandize in an intelligible and convincing way the front-ranking experience existing in this area.

It was deemed necessary for the government to examine and adopt a resolution on the creation of a well-organized system in the country for fulfilling the population's requirements for construction materials and services with the involvement of all construction organizations and industrial, agricultural, and other enterprises. The procedure for acquiring goods and providing services must be simplified, and all possible bureaucratic obstacles and restrictions must be eradicated.

STANDARDS OFFICIAL ON STATE ACCEPTANCE EXPANSION

PM231555 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Interview with V. Omelyanchik, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Standards, by TASS commentator V. Belyayev under the rubric "New-Style Economic Management": "State Acceptance: New Targets" -- date and place not specified -- first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] State Acceptance -- the new extradepartmental quality control service operating at 1,500 enterprises in 28 industrial sectors, is going to be further developed. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have resolved that from 1 January 1988 it will also be introduced at a number of enterprises producing the most important national economic output and consumer goods, at plants in processing sectors of the agro-industrial complex and the construction industry, and also at enterprises supplying materials and components.

TASS observer V. Belyayev asked V. Omelyanchik, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Standards, to talk in greater detail about this.

[Omelyanchik] It was noted at the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and the Seventh USSR Supreme Soviet Session that the working class and the labor collectives where state acceptance has been introduced have defined their position clearly. Extradepartmental quality control, in their opinion, is necessary.

Under present economic management conditions, output quantity and quality continue to come into conflict. Previously virtually all manufacturers gave priority to quantity. Strictly speaking, the plan targets and the labor remuneration system guided them in that direction. Despite producing output of low technical and economic standard and mediocre design, some plants and factories remained among the socialist competition pacemakers for years. Restructuring has clearly and categorically given preference to technically improved and well-designed output.

State acceptance has brought many things to light and made many changes to management practice. It has become clear that for various reasons a considerable number of enterprises cannot produce standard output at the required rate. That situation even took root in such a dynamically developing and well-organized sector as instrument-making. Many enterprises belonging to the Ministries of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, and of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production have not been operating the state acceptance system steadily or evenly.

As economic management practice has shown, state acceptance has proved not only necessary but also economically expedient. The amount of defective goods entering the national economy and everyday life has dropped. Production and technological discipline has improved at plants and factories, and greater attention is now being paid everywhere to increasing the technical equipment of production units and to cadre training and retraining.

[Belyayev] State acceptance monitors over 20 percent of the industrial output. Can you provide a breakdown of that figure?

[Omelyanchik] Yes. Some 60 percent of machine building output and 40 percent of metallurgical, chemical, and petrochemical output is monitored. In more precise figures, 85 percent of trucks, 30 percent of cars, more than one-half of metal-cutting machine tools, virtually all types of tractors, and 87 percent of stockraising and feed-production equipment are checked. All makes of television sets, refrigerators, washing machines, and many other types of household appliances are checked.

Those figures will change, of course, when state acceptance is introduced at a further 727 enterprises in January 1988. Extradepartmental quality control will be extended to all cars and trucks, buses, tractors, and sophisticated domestic appliances. Some 94 percent of metal-cutting machine tools and almost 74 percent of computer equipment will enter the national economy or be exported only after going through state acceptance procedures.

[Belyayev] What changes in the work of the control service can be expected in the near future?

[Omelyanchik] In the conditions of modern production organization -- that is, in-depth specialization and extensive economic ties -- it is hard for a manufacturer to improve the quality of finished output by himself. Much depends on the conscientiousness of the suppliers of raw and other materials and components. Subcontractors, unfortunately, do not always display that kind of conscientiousness. In the first 6 months Moscow's Avtozil association, for instance, rejected all the 35 grade steel supplied to it by the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy's Kuznetsk combine.

Such facts demonstrate more than just a lack of responsibility on the part of suppliers. They also indicate shortcomings in the formation of the state acceptance system. After making many types of finished output subject to extradepartmental monitoring, we have not been able to organize the appropriate check of components and materials. This shortcoming will now be made good and state acceptance will also be introduced at 314 enterprises supplying raw materials and components.

Extradepartmental quality control is earmarked for introduction at 309 enterprises producing the most important national economic output and consumer goods. Our representatives will be appearing for the first time at 6 large enterprises belonging to the Ministry of Grain Products and 32 enterprises of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee producing packaged tea, butter, cheese, and canned fruit and vegetables.

In view of the great importance of improving the quality of housing and sociocultural construction, it is deemed expedient to introduce the state acceptance system at 72 construction industry enterprises. State acceptance of apartment blocks and preschool institutions is to be organized soon in 20 republics, krays, and oblasts.

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTORATE TO MONITOR PRODUCTION

LD182256 Moscow TASS in English 2157 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS -- The state output quality control inspectorate, the new extra-departmental service monitoring the quality of goods produced in this country, is in operation at 1,500 enterprises of the USSR's 28 industries and will be further developed.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR decreed to introduce it as of January 1, 1988 at a several more factories and plants turning out critical national economic output and consumer goods, at plants of the processing industries of the agro-industrial complex and the building industry as well as factories which supply materials and accessories. [sentence as received]

Commenting on this decision in a talk with a TASS correspondent, Vasiliy Omelyanchik, deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for Standards, pointed out that state output quality control proved necessary as well as economically expedient. The number of shoddy goods making their way into national economy and every-day life shrank. Production and technological discipline improved at factories and plants.

More attention is now paid to upgrading the technical equipment of production units, to training and re-training of the personnel. In ensuring the truthful nature of information, the inspectorate ruled out the possibility of padding reports and twisting accounts.

The expenditures on the upkeep of the inspectorate's staff are payed off many times by a rise in the quality of goods. Its staff makes up just 10 to 15 per cent of the number of people employed at technical control departments of plants under control, Vasiliy Omelyanchik said.

The inspectorate currently controls over 20 per cent of industrial output to include 60 per cent of the engineering industry products, 40 per cent of products turned out by the metallurgical, chemical and petro-chemical industries. To be more precise, it has under its control 85 per cent of trucks and 30 per cent of cars, over a half of metal-cutting machines, almost all types of tractors and 87 per cent of equipment for stock-breeding and fodder production. All types of television sets, refrigerators, washing machines and many other house-hold appliances are also under its rigid control.

With the introduction in January, 1988 of state output quality control at another 727 enterprises, the extra-departmental control will spread to all cars, lorries, buses, tractors and complex house-hold machines. The state output quality control is introduced at 314 more factories and plants which supply raw materials or accessories.

The extra-departmental quality control is planned to be introduced at 309 enterprises producing the all-important national economic products and consumer goods. For the first time, officials of the inspectorate will appear at eight large-scale factories of the bakery ministry and 32 enterprises of the USSR agro-industrial complex turning out packaged tea, butter, cheese and canned fruit and vegetables.

Considering the tremendous importance of upgrading the quality of the housing construction and the building of social and cultural facilities, it has been recognized as expedient to introduce state quality control at 72 enterprises of the construction industry. There are plans to set up within a short term an inspectorate which would have a final say in commissioning houses and pre-school child care centres, Vasiliy Omelyanchik said.

MURAKHOVSKIY ADDRESSES FISH INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

PM220945 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 17 Jul 87 p 2

[TASS report: "Increasing Fish Farm Output"]

[Text] Slavyansk (Donetsk Oblast), 15 Jul -- An All-Union Conference of Inland Fish Industry Workers held in Slavyansk 14-15 July set its sights on decisively improving the organization of fish farming, intensifying production, and restructuring the sector.

Senior party and soviet leaders, leaders of the agro-industrial complex, representatives of ministries and departments, scientists, and fish breeding specialists participated in its work.

Conference participants were addressed by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee.

The report by USSR Fish Industry Minister N.I. Kotlyar and the speeches stressed that intensive fish farming techniques offer enormous opportunities for steadily increasing the output of edible fish products. Around 660,000 tonnes of freshwater fish are now caught in the country annually, but the return could be greater.

Conference participants were briefed on the advanced experience built up in the Donbass, particularly in organizing the operation of fish ponds, expanding the range of marketable output by breeding valuable species of fish, and using the water of hot springs and thermal power stations for fish breeding.

I.I. Skiba, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department, took part in the work of the conference.

SILAYEV SPEAKS ON MACHINE-BUILDING PLANS

LD211730 Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS -- Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has told newsmen that Soviet machine-building plants will start batch production of 320 types of new generation machines by 1990. The Soviet Union gives priority to developing machine-building complex.

Silayev noted that 90 percent of Soviet machine building products would match the world standards by 1990 thanks to the current reorganisation in the Soviet society.

RSFSR REPORTS FEED PROCUREMENT PROGRESS

PM231343 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[Commentary "prepared by RSFSR Gosagroprom staffers" under the rubric "Feed Procurement": "Succeeding Through Quality"]

[Text] At the moment feed procurement is still the agricultural workers' main concern. In the RSFSR as a whole, its pace is rather slow. Just over one-third of the planned quantity of hay and grass meal and around 40 percent of haylage have been laid on. This is 1.3 million tonnes of feed units fewer than at this time last year. To catch up what has been missed and to eliminate the shortfall is no longer easy, but it has to be done.

Not a year passes without difficulties, but always and everywhere there are farms which by their example show that, given proper organization, any difficulties can be overcome. In Omsk Oblast almost 60 percent of the hay procurement plan has already been fulfilled. Wide use of active ventilation has helped. In Isilkulskiy Rayon, for instance, a third of the grass has been dried out in barns, and in Bolsherechenskiy Rayon the total is 70 percent.

Feed procurement in Gorkiy Oblast is proceeding under different conditions but successfully -- the plan for hay and haylage has been fulfilled 75 percent. Farms in Perevozskiy Rayon have been particularly successful and have exceeded the target for hay and haylage. On the "Niva" sovkhoz, for instance, spare reserves are now being laid in.

In the Central, Volga-Vyatka, the Central Chernozem regions copious and prolonged rain has impeded feed procurement but has, at the same time, promoted grass growth. Over the past week the pace has been stepped up in Bryansk, Ivanovo, and Moscow Oblasts. At the same time work in Pskov, Novgorod, Smolensk, Yaroslavl, and a number of other oblasts is still only getting under way and is marked by a lack of organization. A lot of machinery is idle, and additional drying by means of active ventilation is poorly organized.

Literally in every lagging oblast there are whole rayons where haymaking is proceeding successfully, as if they lived under a different sky. In Kalinin Oblast, for instance, Kalininskiy Rayon has laid in more than twice as much feed per nominal head of livestock as in Kimrskiy or Likhoslavlskiy Rayons, for instance. How is one to explain why only half as much hay as been cut and put in stacks or barns in Kursk Oblast as in Tambov Oblast? It is obvious that Tambov Oblast farms have prepared better for haymaking and are proceeding in a more organized fashion.

Feed procurement workers' work payment must be made directly dependent on the content of raw protein in the feed; as is well known, 25 percent of it can be lost simply by cutting the grass at the wrong time rather than when the amount of nutrients it contains is at its highest. Oblast planning and research stations for the application of chemicals in agriculture and veterinary and other laboratories are being involved in carrying out the analyses. This work has been organized quite well in Kuybyshev and Novosibirsk Oblasts, in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and particularly in Leningrad Oblast. More than 300,000 tonnes of hay have been tested for protein content in Omsk Oblast; the analyses have shown that 85 percent of the hay is in the first or second category.

Unfortunately, too many people are still only counting tonnes. Feed quality monitoring is poorly organized in Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Ivanovo, and Kirov Oblasts and the North Osetian ASSR. The unique "Infrapid-81" instruments which can rapidly determine the protein content are not being used to full capacity in Voronezh, Lipetsk, and Kirov Oblasts.

In the south the harvest has already begun and the pressure of field work is rising. That makes every house of good weather even more valuable.

MEDIA REPORT 15-18 JULY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD182338 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 15-18 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

15 July

The first combines have started work on the lower Volga. Machine operators in Astrakhan Oblast, Kalmykiya, and the south of Volgograd Oblast have started threshing grain and pulse crops. In the Kuban they have completed rye harvesting and started cutting winter wheat, the most important food crop. The area of land cultivated by progressive technology has increased here this year and a good yield is being obtained in the Kuban, the Stavropol Kray, and the autonomous republics of the northern Caucasus. (1100)

Grain crops have now been gathered from an area of 2.5 million hectares, that is not so much overall, since the grain area in our country is considerably in excess of 100 million hectares. More than 42 percent of the planned hay has now been laid in, and more haylage -- 56 percent. Six union republics have already met plans for the laying-in of hayage. Silage is being made in the southern areas, but a shortage of spare parts for machinery has been revealed. A little more than one-fifth of all feeds required has now been laid in. That is approximately the same amount as the same time last year. (1800)

16 July

Selective harvesting of winter crops and barley has started in steppe regions in Saratov Oblast. It is already evident now that the prolonged and steady hot weather being experienced at the moment has sharply lowered the productivity of fields. The grains are sparse, stunted and they are harvesting them mainly by direct combing. (0204)

Farmers in Zaporozhye Oblast have begun harvesting. They have started off with the pea crop which has now been expanded to occupy 65,000 hectares. (0700)

Many farms in the Crimea have completed harvesting of winter barley and switched to gathering in winter wheat. Compared with least year the barley yield is a little higher. More than 300,000 metric ton of grain has arrived at the threshing floors. The rate of sales to the state is on the increase. (1100)

Feed procurement in Tajikistan is being conducted at a faster rate than last year. The republic's statistical service reported this today. Machine operators in the most southern Vakhsh valley have already begun the third cutting of alfalfa, the chief feed crop.

More forage than over the same period last year has been stored in farms in Leninabad Oblast. In the republic this year it is planned to produce 21 feed units per head of livestock. (1100)

Harvesting and transport complexes are working on the harvest in Manas Rayon where yields of over 30 quintals of barley and wheat are being obtained per hectare. (1300)

Uzbekistan's haymaking is going better than last year, with frontrankers having finished the third mow of alfalfa. This has permitted the republic to overall exceed by nearly 1 million tons last year's rate of stockpiling. Quality, however, is alarming, because most rayons are delaying the time of mowing, badly affecting the nutrition properties of the hay. (1300)

17 July

Grains have been harvested from the first 100,000 hectares in the Kirghiz SSR. (0200)

Harvesting has started in Kazakhstan's Semipalatinsk Oblast. About 30 enlarged complexes and detachments set to work today. There is enough equipment ready for use to sustain a two-shift system. Temporary filling stations have been opened in the fields to keep the vehicles moving. In Makanchi and Aksuat Rayons, however, there have been difficulties with introducing up-to-date loading and unloading methods, so the flow of grain there is nearly 50 percent slower than in neighboring areas. (1300)

The first hundreds of tonnes of grain have arrived at the elevators in Stavropol Kray, which is pledged to produce 1.92 million tonnes of grain this year. (1500)

18 July

The harvesting of winter rye, barley, and wheat has started on the farms in the south of Orenburg Oblast. Grain is to be reaped from almost 4 million hectares by the peasants of Orenburg Oblast. (0800)

TASS ANNOUNCES LAUNCHING OF COSMOS-1870 SATELLITE

LD251514 Moscow TASS in English 1503 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 25 TASS -- The Soviet Union today launched an artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1870, for remote sounding of the earth's surface and the world ocean. The satellite was put into an orbit by the "Proton" booster rocket.

The programme of the Cosmos-1870 flight envisages the testing of the onboard systems' design and the set of the satellite's scientific instruments, and the conduct of scientific-technical research and experiments in the interests of various branches of science and the national economy, among them hydrology, cartography, geology, agriculture and the study of the environment.

The parameters of the satellite's orbit are as follows:

-- maximum distance from the earth's surface -- 282 kilometers,
-- minimum distance from the earth's surface -- 168 kilometers,
-- inclination -- 71.9 degrees,
-- period of revolution -- 88.7 minutes.

According to telemetry, the onboard systems of the Cosmos-1870 satellite operate normally.

'RESERVATIONS' ABOUT RETURNING COSMONAUTS' HEALTH

LD241233 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Moscow July 24 TASS -- "The Soviet orbital station Mir is becoming permanently manned," said Viktor Blagov, deputy mission controller. He spoke to newsmen at the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in conjunction with the beginning of work of the Soviet-Syrian crew aboard the orbital complex.

According to Blagov, from now on it is planned to make full and partial replacements of the main expedition's crew.

This time, he went on to say, we are going to bring Aleksandr Laveykin back to earth using the current visiting expedition. It is a planned replacement but this time it so happened that cardiologists have some reservations, although insignificant ones, concerning Laveykin's health.

He will be replaced by Aleksandr Aleksandrov who arrived at the Mir station together with Aleksandr Viktorenko and the Syrian cosmonaut-researcher Muhammad Faris today. The international crew is scheduled to return to earth July 30.

More on Press Conference

LD241028 Moscow TASS in English 0959 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 24 TASS -- TASS special correspondents reporting from the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

"The docking of the Soyuz TM-3 spacecraft with the Mir complex went off pretty well. The Soviet-Syrian crew and all on-board systems operated without a hitch," said Viktor Blagov, depty mission controller. He spoke to newsmen at the press center of the Foreign Ministry in conjunction with the beginning of work of the Soviet-Syrian crew aboard the Mir space station.

A live telecast from space preceded the news conference. The viewers saw the docking of the manned spacecraft with the orbital complex this morning and watched the meeting of the arriving cosmonauts Alekskandr Viktorenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Muhammad Faris with the 'hosts' Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin. "Dobroye utro (good morning), salam," the first Syrian cosmonaut greeted his Soviet colleagues.

Speaking about distinguishing features of the current flight, Viktor Blagov said that for the first time ever a manned spacecraft had docked with the station from the side of the astrophysical module 'Kvant".

Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Aksyonov, one of the speakers at the news conference, took note of Muhammad Faris' tranquil and confident manner of work on the orbit. "Experiencing zero-gravity for the first time, our Syrian colleague proved to be well-prepared for work in extreme conditions," Aksyonov said.

Speaking of the prospects for international cooperation, particularly with the U.S., in the exploration and uses of outer space, Vladimir Denisenko of the Intercosmos Council announced that meetings between Soviet and American specialists in space biology and medicine were scheduled to take place shortly.

"The Soviet Union is strongly in favor of a peaceful orientation of space research in contrast to Washington's 'Star Wars' program," said Soviet cosmonaut Yuriy Gladyshev." It is to be hoped that our joint work will aim for preserving peace on earth and attaining tangible results in accelerating scientific and technological progress for the benefit of humankind."

Faris Greets al-Asad

LD251220 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0825 GMT on 25 July carries an unscheduled program, which is an 8-minute live relay from the Flight Control Center on a linkup with the "Mir-Soyuz" orbital complex. The relay opens with views inside the main room of the flight control center: rows of men in civilian and military dress watching the large screens at the end of the room, the large trajectory map in the center and two smaller monitor screens on either side of it. Mission Control talks with the Soviet cosmonauts, who describe how they are arranging themselves for the television linkup.

One of the television monitor screens on the wall then shows the cosmonauts seated in one of the station's compartments: Syria's Muhammad Faris in the foreground, and the four Soviet cosmonauts behind him. Mission control is then heard to link up with Damascus and pass the feed to it. The second monitor screen on the wall then shows President Hafiz al-Asad seated in his office. There then follows a conversation between Faris and Al-Asad in Arabic, with superimposed Russian translation:

[Faris] "This is Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Faris. I am happy to report that I am flying for the first time over the skies of the Syrian Arab Republic. I send my sincere greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad and all Syrian people from myself personally, from crew commander Yuriy Romanenko, and from the other crew members.

I send most sincere greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people. Hello, Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad. I can hear and see you well and am happy to be able to talk with you now.

"[Al-Asad] I think you and crew commander Romanenko. I would like to pass on my gratitude to all your comrades, the Soviet cosmonauts. How do you feel?

"[Faris] Thank you Mr President, I feel fine. I feel OK, and we are fulfilling the flight program. I send you greetings from my fellow crew members.

"[Al-Asad] I am very happy to see you and send you greetings from the Syrian people and all the Arab peoples. I thank you for honorably fulfilling your mission to become the first Arab cosmonaut.

"[Faris] Mr President, I am very happy to see now my beloved Syria. I can see the beautiful land of my home country. I can see the mountains of Syria. I can see Jabal al-Shaykh. I can see various regions of my wonderful and beautiful country and am very happy to report this to you.

"[Al-Asad] Muhammad, we are following the flight of the orbital complex and are glad to tell you that you are honorably fulfilling your task. We hope that the program of joint research and experiments that you are carrying out with the Soviet cosmonauts will yield good results. I would ask you again to pass on my greetings and best wishes to the Soviet cosmonauts and crew commander Romanenko. I hope you will safely complete the program of experiments and research and return to earth.

"[Faris] Thank you, Mr President, for those warm words. Once again, please pass on my greetings to all the Syrian people. I would like to assure you that I will apply all my strength and knowledge to fulfill successfully the flight targets."

The relay ends with another brief interchange between Faris and the Damascus television studio, exchanging greetings.

Speak to Gorbachev, Al-Asad

LD241634 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0720 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Special "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We continue our report from Flight Control Center. The time allotted for the crew to settle in on the station has elapsed. No doubt they needed some time to master their emotions. Now, in a more businesslike and, one could even say, official atmosphere, the cosmonauts -- the crew of five -- will report that they are ready for work. One of the cosmonauts, Flight Commander Romanenko, speaks first:

[Begin recording] [Romanenko] To Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary; to Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general, Syrian Arab Republic president: We report to you from aboard the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting complex that the international crew, comprising Soviet cosmonauts and a Syrian cosmonaut, has begun fulfilling a program of joint research and experiments.

We are glad that our flight is taking place at a time when preparations are under way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which is of worldwide historic significance and was an important turning point in the struggle of peoples for liberation from exploitation and colonialism, for their right to self-determination, and the deliverance of mankind from wars. This is an inspiration to us and imposes a particular responsibility. We will apply all our energy and skill to the successful fulfillment of the flight program.

From the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex, cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Viktorenko, Aleksandrov, and Faris.

[Unidentified voice from flight control] Report received. Congratulations have come in for you, too.

To the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex, cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Viktorenko, Aleksandrov, and Faris. Dear comrades, I send you my cordial congratulations on the successful start to joint work on the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex. Your flight is an embodiment of the developing ties in the scientific field and a qualitatively new step in the multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic. It graphically demonstrates the peaceful objectives of our cooperation in the development of space and will provide a shining page in the chronicle of the development and consolidation of Soviet-Syrian friendship. I am certain that you will justify the high degree of confidence vested in you by your peoples and will fulfill the honorable and responsible mission of carrying out the program of joint research and experiments, which are of great scientific and economic importance.

I wish you, dear comrades, successful work and a successful return to Earth. Mikhail Gorbachev [Unidentified voice from flight control continues] To the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex, cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Faris, Vikorenko, and Aleksandrov.

It was with great joy that I received your cable from aboard the "Mir" station, where you are continuing to fulfill the space flight program. I am happy to send you the warmest greetings and best wishes for your success and well-being on behalf of the people of the Syrian Arab Republic and on my own behalf in this connection. Your flight is the objective result of the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union. These relations have confirmed their unvarying durability and have yielded major positive results in all spheres of cooperation. They are based on the common standpoints of our two countries, parties, and peoples and reflect our joint interests in the service of the cause of progress, socialism, and peace. I am convinced that you will perform all the scientific experiments included in the program for your flight, which will be a new landmark in the history of our relations, particularly in such an important area of scientific cooperation. I express my gratitude and put a high value on the work of all the Syrian and Soviet people who contributed to the preparation and realization of this flight. I again wish you success, good fortunes and a successful return.

From Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

[Romanenko] To Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary.

Dear Mikhail Sergeyevich, from the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your warm words of greeting and good wishes. We assure you that we will justify the confidence vested in us with honor and will do all we can to ensure the program of the joint flight to study space for peaceful purposes is fully carried out.

From the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex, cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Viktorenko, Aleksandrov, and Faris.

To Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Dear Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex thanks you for your warm words of greeting and good wishes. We assure you that we, Soviet and Syrian cosmonauts, will apply all our skills and experience to the successful fulfillment of the scientific program of the joint flight.

From the international crew of the "Mir-Soyuz" orbiting research complex, cosmonauts Romanenko, Laveykin, Viktorenko, Aleksandrov, and Faris.

[Faris, in Russian] Dear friends, I am very glad to be meeting our friends, our hosts on the station. I am convinced that we will fulfill our program because I am surrounded by good, excellent friends. I am convinced of that. And (?I want) our friendship to be forever. Permit me to say a few words in Arabic.

[Faris continues, in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation]

Dear fellow countrymen. I am enormously pleased at this moment to be on board the "Mir" orbiting complex, and I would like to take the opportunity to say once again that I am boundlessly happy when I see my homeland through the porthole. I can see its territory. I hope that we will get back to Earth safely after we have completed our flight program. I send my greetings to all my fellow countrymen, the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic, and above all Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria, and all my friends and relations. I wish you all success and happiness. I thank the great Soviet people, the government, and all my friends and colleagues who are currently following the flight. Thank you. [end recording] [during the program the video cuts between shots of the cosmonauts on the space station and miscellaneous shots in the mission control room, showing Soviet and Syrian officials and flight control staff]

KULIKOV ADDRESSES KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT AKTIV

PM230941 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 87 First Edition p 1

[Report by unnamed "our correspondent" under general heading: "From Critical Positions"]

[Text] Red Banner Kiev Military District -- Achieving the real restructuring of cadres' thinking and mentality, accelerating practical advances in improving mattters in combat training and military discipline, raising the responsibility of each Communist for the real result on a specific sector -- this was discussed at a meeting of the district's party aktiv. Colonel General V. Osipov, commander of the district, delivered a report on the results of the work of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the party organizations' tasks in fulfilling its decisions.

The report and the speeches delivered by Lieutenant General V. Sharygin, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the district, and by Comrades N. Antoshkin, V. Kuznetsov, L. Lubgan, M. Tsykun, and others analyzed the first results of restructuring and the reasons preventing the processes of renewal of all aspects of the troops' life and activity. It was noted that in a number of units of the district stagnation phenomena are still strong. The servicemen's work is in need of better organization, personnel have been allowed breaks from exercises, and there are instances of slackness in executing combat duty. It is essential to use all forms of party work to eliminate negligence, indifference, and carelessness, to actively resolve problems collected with the selection, placement, and education of cadres, and to pay more attention to social issues. There was a discussion of ways of enhancing the role of primary party organizations in ensuring Communists' vanguard role on all sectors of the struggle for high combat readiness, irreproachable military discipline, order, and organization.

Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR first deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states' joint armed forces, addressed the party aktiv meeting.

MPD CHIEF LIZICHEV ADDRESSES NEW POLITICAL OFFICERS

PM241533 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jul 87 First Edition p 1

[Major S. Goncharenko report: "Passing-out Speech"]

[Text] Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, met with graduates of the V.I. Lenin Military Political Academy 22 July. He congratulated the political officers on the successful completion of their studies, and talked about the tasks which they will have to resolve in the Army and Navy, and about the urgent problems of restructuring party political work and improving its effectiveness. Army General A.D. Lizichev urged the graduates to devote all their energy and knowledge to fulfilling the decisions of the 27th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and, through their impassioned party speeches and personal example, to inspire servicemen to ensure selfless military labor, to tirelessly improve the combat readiness of units and ships, to boost field, air, and sea training, and to strengthen military discipline, organization, and order.

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